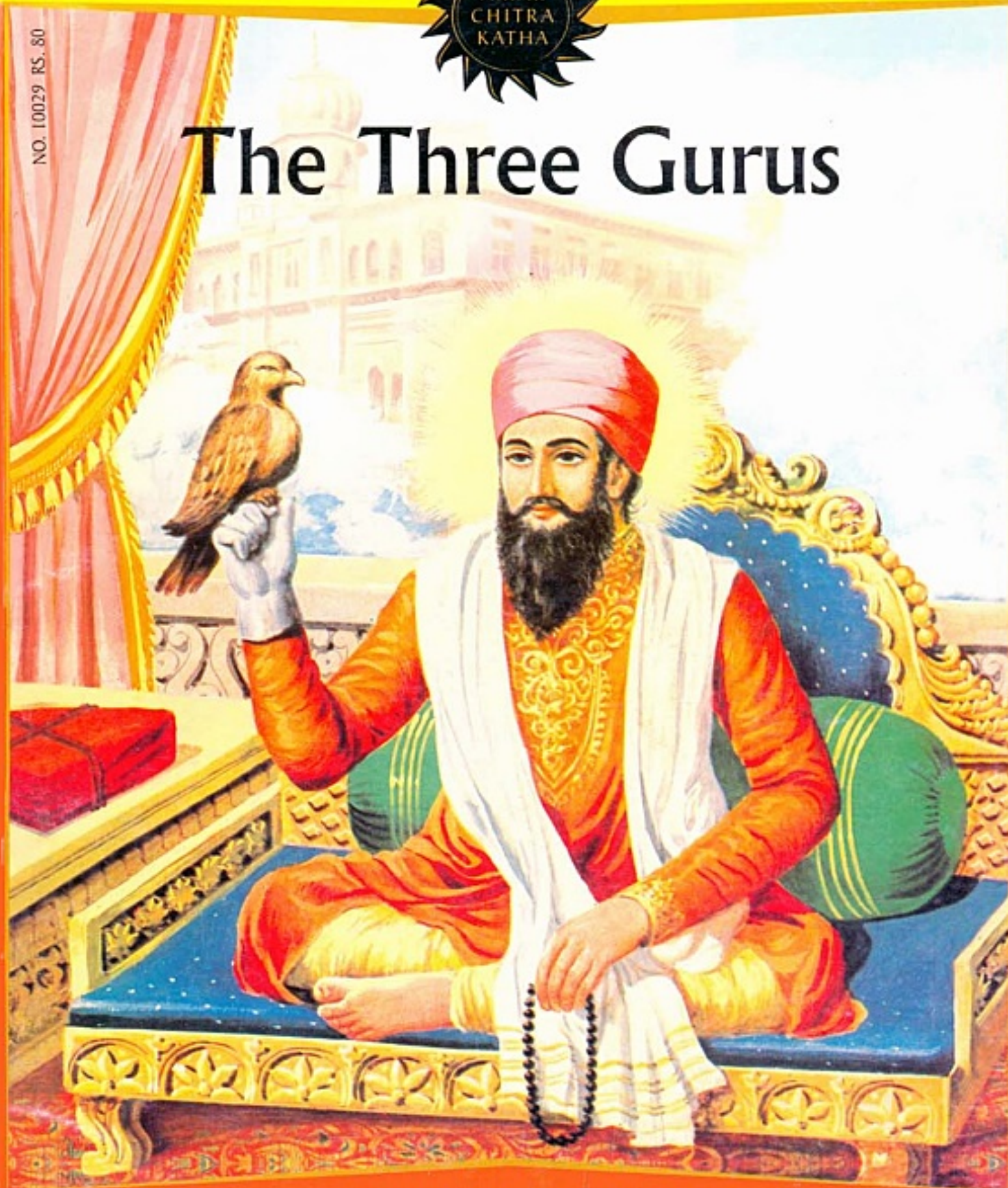


NO. 10029 RS. 80



# The Three Gurus



3 Illustrated Classics from India

Guru Tegh Bahadur • Guru Nanak • Guru Gobind Singh



Illustrated Classics From India

## Guru Tegh Bahadur

Tegh Bahdur became the Guru of the Sikhs at a time when the Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb's policy of religious intolerance and persecution had antagonised vast sections of his subjects. The Jat peasantry took up arms in the district of Mathura. The Satnamis rebelled in the Punjab but these rebellions were mercilessly crushed. In the Deccan however, Shivaji's powers continued to be on the rise and in 1674, he proclaimed himself king. This made Aurangzeb even more ruthless in his religious persecution.

When the Hindus of Kashmir were denied the freedom to follow their faith, they approached Guru Tegh Bahadur for help and guidance. More than four hundred years ago religious intolerance and persecution was common all over the world. It was at this period of time that the Guru carried the conviction that every individual must have the freedom of worship the faith of his or her choice. He wrote to the Emperor, reminding him that the Holy Koran does not sanction forcible conversion. He expressed his willingness to hold discussions on the subject with the Emperor and his advisers on matters of religion. He said, "If they succeed in converting me to their opinion, I will embrace your Islam and all the Hindus too might do the same. If on the contrary, they do not succeed in converting me to their opinion, then I request that henceforth all religious persecution should be stopped."

Great ingenuity was used in devising new kinds of torture for the Guru and his closest disciples. But Aurangzeb failed to crush their spirit. Thus the Guru laid down his life for a great principle, which widely propounded the belief in most parts of the world. Even to this day, he is remembered as *Hindi-di-chadar* (literally, the cover-let of India), protector of India's honour.

**Editor: Anant Pai**

**Script: Ram Krishna Sudhakar     Illustrations: Ranjana**

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# GURU TEGH BAHADUR



AT DAWN, ON APRIL 1, 1621, A CHILD WAS BORN IN THE HOLY CITY OF AMRITSAR, TO NANKI AND GURU HARGOBIND, THE SIXTH GURU OF THE SIKHS.



WHEN GURU HARGOBIND CAME TO SEE HIS SON —



WHEN TYAG MAL WAS FOUR AND A HALF YEARS OLD, GURU HARGOBIND TOOK HIM TO BHAI BUDDHA.

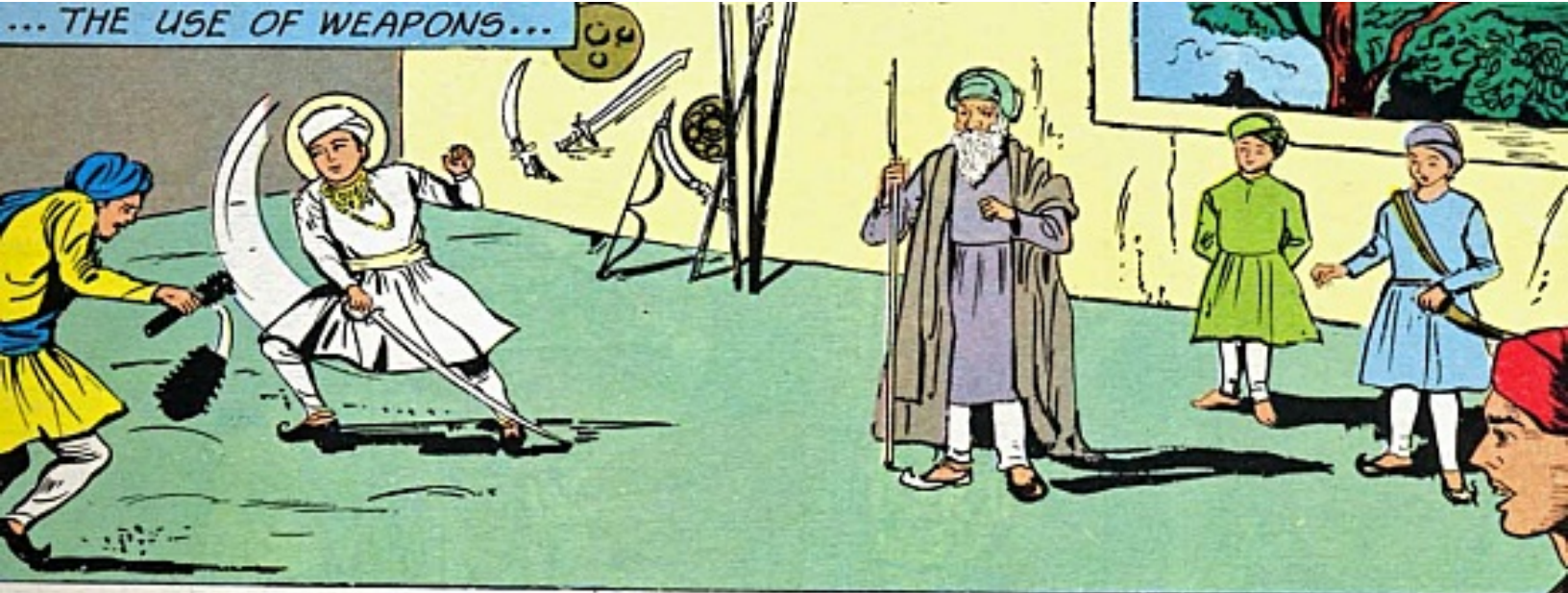


THE HOLY TEACHER TAUGHT TYAG MAL THE SCIENCES AND THE HUMANITIES...





... THE USE OF WEAPONS...



... AND MUSIC AND POETRY.



THREE YEARS LATER, TYAG MAL WAS INITIATED.





IN HIM, I SEE  
A SAVIOUR OF  
THE PEOPLE.



AFTER THE INITIATION, TYAG MAL BEGAN  
TAKING A KEEN INTEREST IN RELIGION. HE  
WOULD LISTEN INTENTLY TO THE  
DISCOURSES GIVEN BY  
HIS FATHER.



A TRULY RELIGIOUS  
MAN IS HE WHO IS  
WISE AND FEARLESS  
AND HAS AN ABIDING  
FAITH IN GOD. HE  
MUST HAVE THE  
WILL TO SACRIFICE  
HIS ALL FOR  
HIS FAITH.

WHEN HE WAS ELEVEN YEARS OLD, TYAG MAL  
WAS MARRIED TO GUJRI.





TWO YEARS LATER, THE MUGHAL ARMY LED BY KALE KHAN ATTACKED GURU HARGOBIND THIS WAS TYAG MAL'S FIRST BATTLE. BUT HE WAS UNDAUNTED.



A TRULY RELIGIOUS MAN IS HE WHO IS WISE AND FEARLESS.

THE ENEMY WAS GIVEN A CRUSHING DEFEAT.



TYAG MAL WREAKED HAVOC UPON THE ENEMY RANKS.

HE FOUGHT LIKE A LION.

IT WAS AFTER THIS BATTLE THAT GURU HARGOBIND RENAMED HIM TEGH BAHADUR—KNIGHT OF THE SWORD.

WHEN GURU HARGOBIND'S END DREW NEAR, HE APPOINTED YOUNG HAR RAI, TEGH BAHADUR'S NEPHEW, AS THE GURU. THE GURU WAS THEN AT KEERATPUR.



GURU HARGOBIND LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE ON MARCH 4, 1644.





EGH BAHADUR MOVED OUT OF AMRITSAR WITH HIS WIFE GUJRI AND MOTHER JANKI, AND PROCEEDED TO THE VILLAGE OF BAKALA.

THERE I WILL SPEND  
MY TIME IN THE  
PURSUIT OF TRUTH.



FOR THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS HE  
LIVED AT BAKALA DEVOTING ALL HIS  
TIME TO MEDITATION AND CONTEMPLATION.



BUT HE KEPT HIMSELF INFORMED  
OF THE HAPPENINGS IN KEERATPUR.  
ONE DAY—



A FEW MONTHS LATER —



GURU HAR KRISHEN HAS  
GONE TO DELHI AT THE  
INVITATION OF  
AURANGZEB.



A FEW WEEKS LATER—

HAVE YOU HEARD ? GURU HAR KRISHEN IS NO MORE. HE DIED OF SMALL-POX. WHILE DYING HE UTTERED THE WORDS BABA BAKALE.\*



WHEN THE NEWS SPREAD AT BAKALA, IMPOSTORS CAME FORWARD TO CLAIM THE TITLE.



I, DHIRMAL, THE GRANDSON OF GURU HARGOBIND AM THE GURU.



I AM THE NINTH GURU.

MEANWHILE, MAKHAN SHAH, A RICH TRADER WAS ON HIS WAY HOME. HIS SHIP WAS CAUGHT IN A STORM.

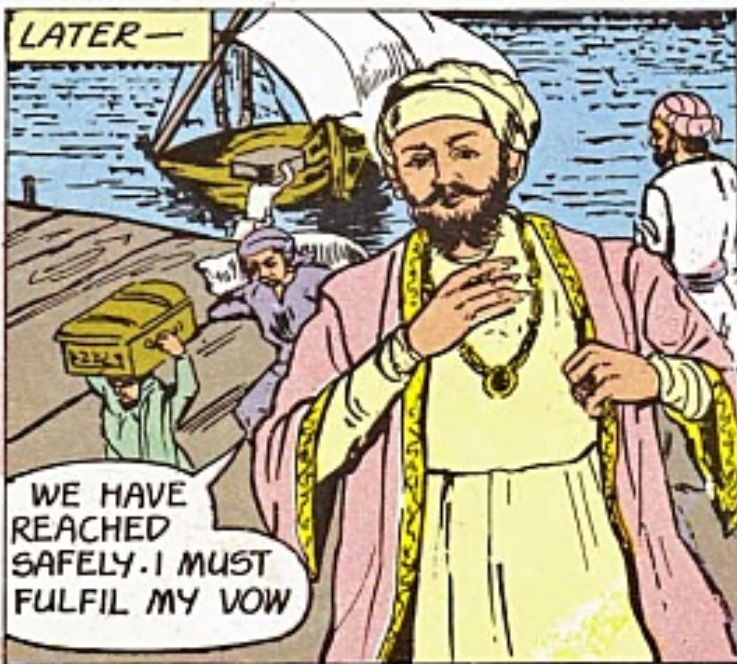


I SHALL DONATE FIVE HUNDRED GOLD COINS TO THE GURU...

...IF BY HIS GRACE I LAND SAFELY AT THE NEAREST PORT.



LATER—



WE HAVE REACHED SAFELY. I MUST FULFIL MY VOW

\* THE NEXT GURU IS AT BAKALA..



MAKHAN SHAH WITH HIS CONVOY ARRIVED AT BAKALA.

IS HE A NEW CLAIMANT TO THE TITLE?

NO, HE IS THE OWNER OF THE SHIPS WHICH CARRY PROVISIONS TO THE MUGHAL ARMY.

WHEN MAKHAN SHAH LEARNT THAT GURU HAR KRISHEN WAS DEAD, HE BEGAN HIS SEARCH FOR THE NEW GURU.

LISTEN TO ME. I SHALL GUIDE YOU.

THERE ARE MANY PRETENDERS HERE WHO ALL CLAIM TO BE HIS SUCCESSORS.

I WILL HAVE TO TEST THE CLAIMANTS.

HE FIRST WENT TO DHIRMAL'S CANOPY AND OFFERED HIM A SINGLE GOLD COIN.

I AM THE TRUE GURU. RICH PEOPLE LIKE YOU SHOULD BECOME MY DISCIPLES.

HE DOES NOT KNOW WHY I AM HERE.



HE IS NOT  
THE TRUE  
GURU.

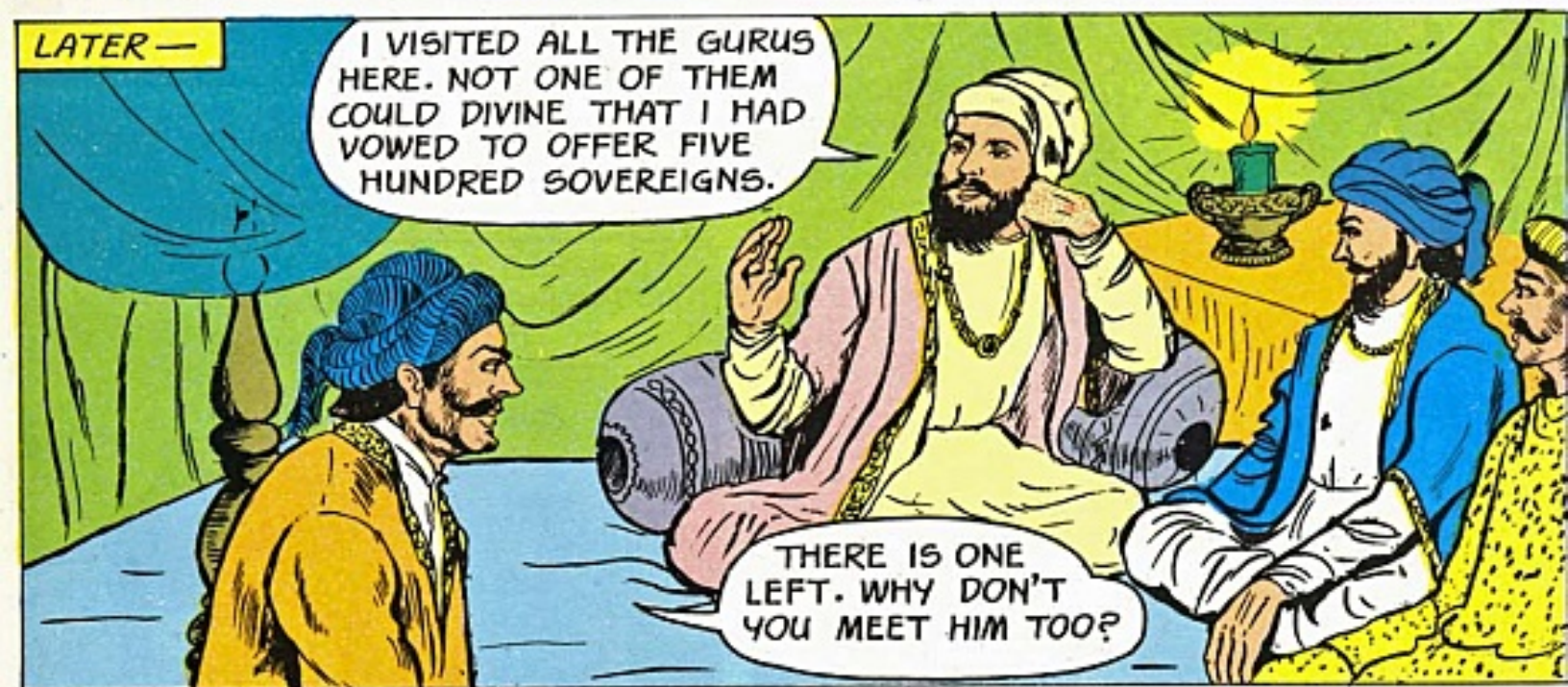


NO, HE TOO IS NOT  
THE TRUE SUCCESSOR.



LATER —

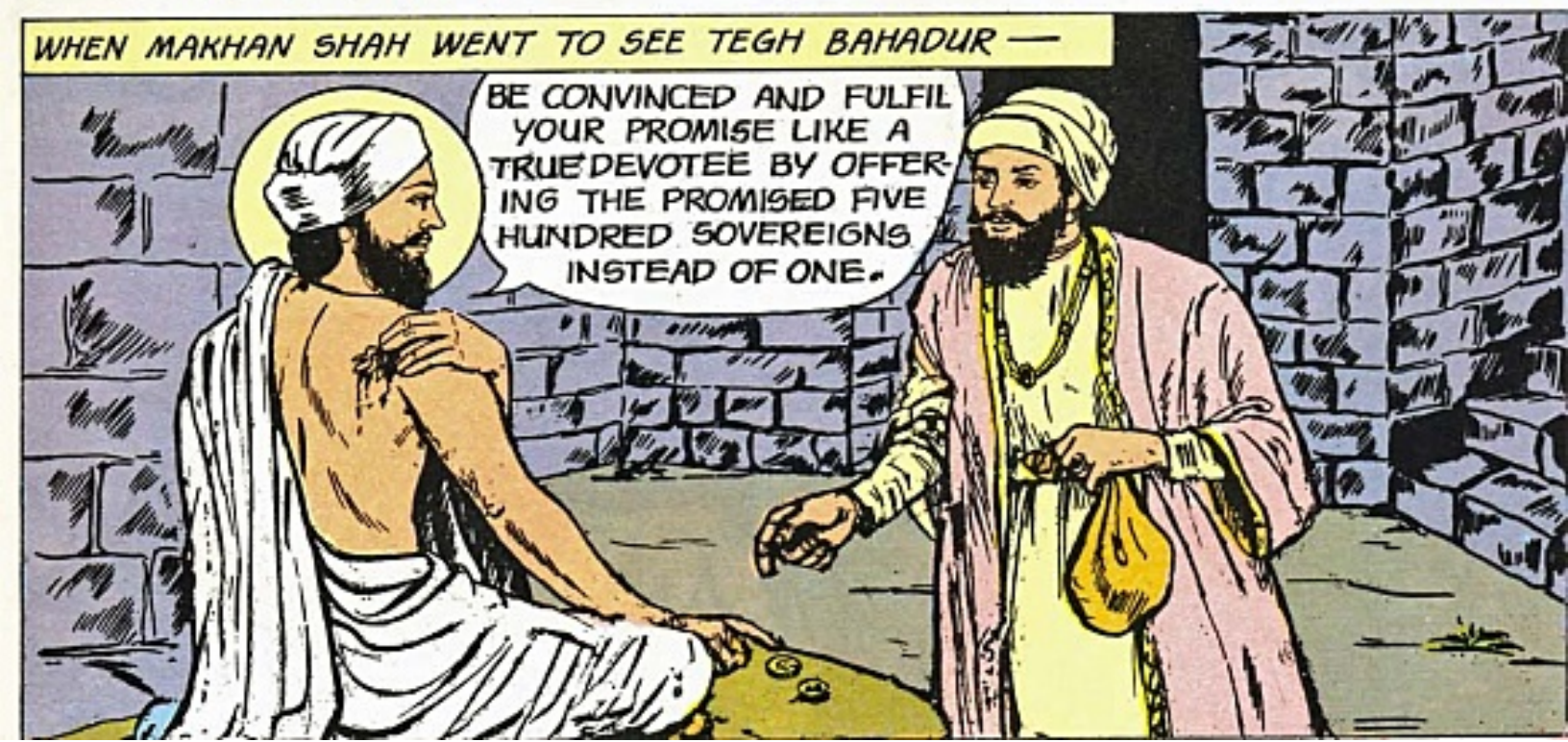
I VISITED ALL THE GURUS  
HERE. NOT ONE OF THEM  
COULD DIVINE THAT I HAD  
VOWED TO OFFER FIVE  
HUNDRED SOVEREIGNS.



THERE IS ONE  
LEFT. WHY DON'T  
YOU MEET HIM TOO?

WHEN MAKHAN SHAH WENT TO SEE TEGH BAHADUR —

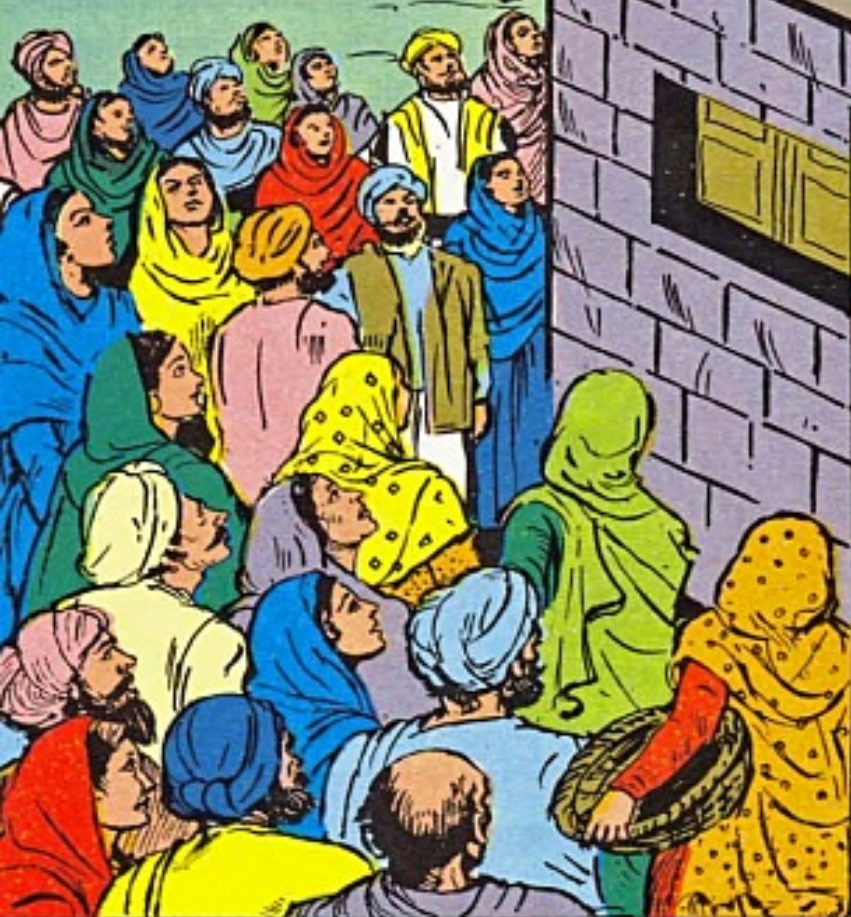
BE CONVINCED AND FULFIL  
YOUR PROMISE LIKE A  
TRUE DEVOTEE BY OFFER-  
ING THE PROMISED FIVE  
HUNDRED SOVEREIGNS  
INSTEAD OF ONE.





MAKHAN SHAH  
WAS ELATED.

I HAVE FOUND HIM!  
I HAVE FOUND  
THE TRUE GURU!



STUNNED BY THE TURN OF EVENTS,  
DHIRMAL AND HIS DISCIPLE, SHIHAN,  
PLANNED TO KILL THE GURU.

HIRE A BAND OF  
RUFFIANS TO DO  
THE JOB.



BUT WHEN THE CONSPIRATORS ATTACKED —

DON'T SPARE THEM!  
LET NO HARM COME  
TO THE GURU.





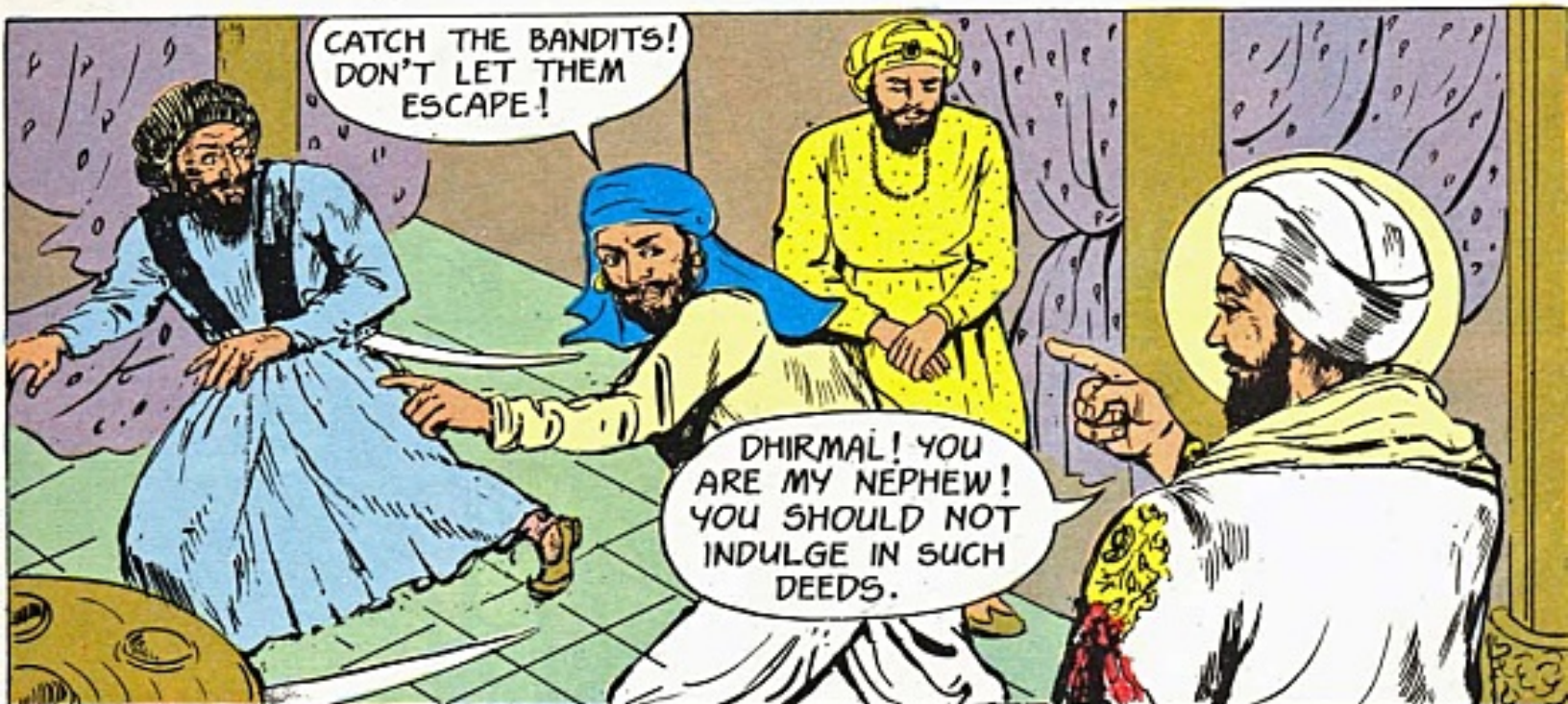
SHIHAN RAISED HIS GUN AND SHOT AT THE GURU...



... BUT THE GURU'S FOLLOWERS WERE TOO QUICK FOR HIM.



CATCH THE BANDITS!  
DON'T LET THEM  
ESCAPE!



DHIRMAL! YOU  
ARE MY NEPHEW!  
YOU SHOULD NOT  
INDULGE IN SUCH  
DEEDS.

DHIRMAL'S MEN BEAT A HASTY RETREAT.







LATER, WHEN MAKHAN SHAH AND HIS MEN BROUGHT DHIRMAL AND SHIHAN BEFORE THE GURU —



RETURN GOOD FOR EVIL AND THERE WILL BE PEACE AND HAPPINESS. FREE THEM, MAKHAN SHAH.

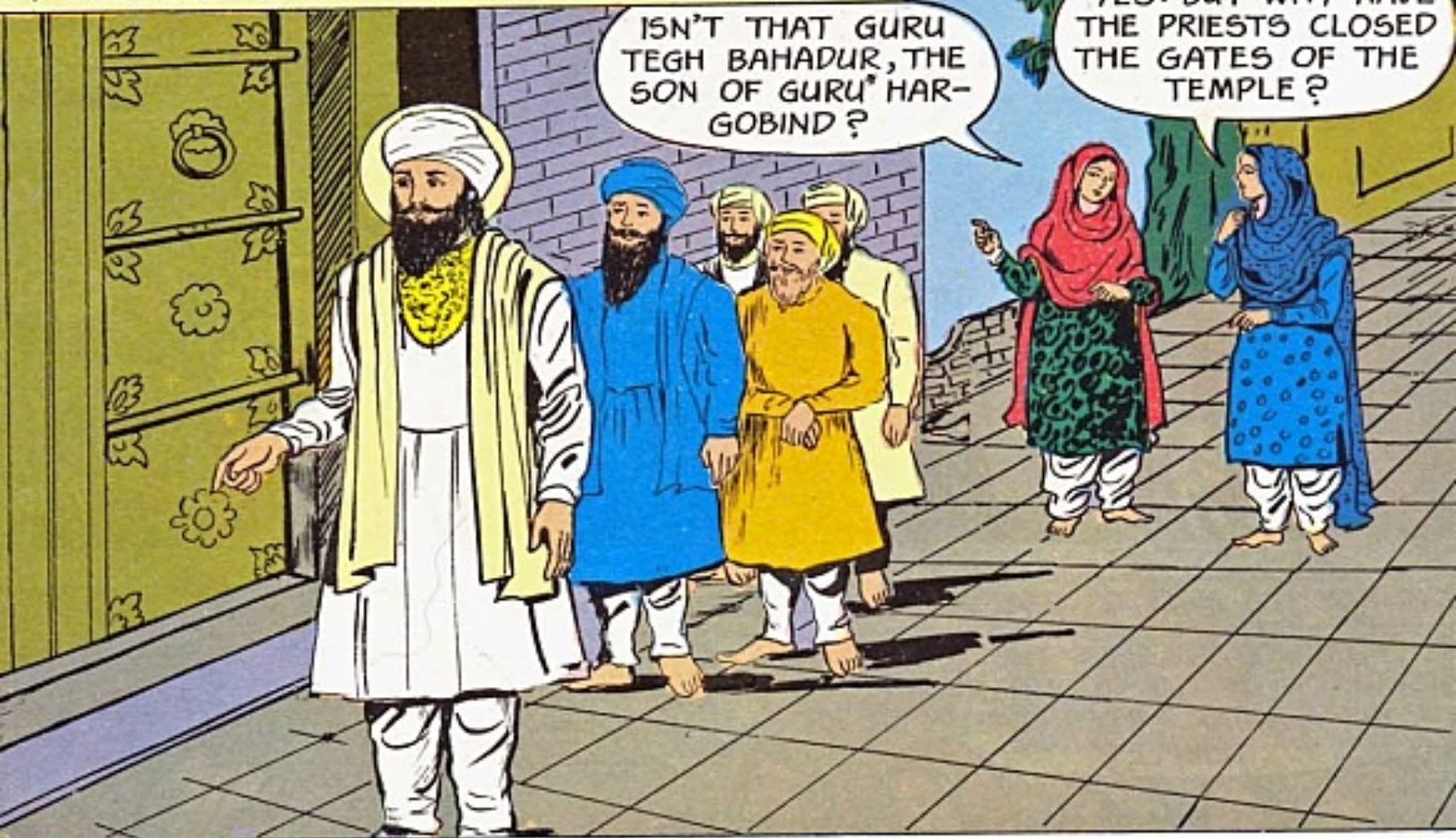


THE RELEASED MEN FELL AT THE FEET OF THE GURU.





AT AMRITSAR, THE HOLY CITY OF HIS BIRTH, THE GURU AND HIS DISCIPLES WERE  
NOT ALLOWED TO PAY HOMAGE AT HARIMANDIR \*



ISN'T THAT GURU  
TEGH BAHADUR, THE  
SON OF GURU HAR-  
GOBIND ?

YES. BUT WHY HAVE  
THE PRIESTS CLOSED  
THE GATES OF THE  
TEMPLE ?

WITHIN MINUTES THE STORY SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE AMONG THE WOMEN OF  
AMRITSAR.



HOW DARE  
THEY !

WE SHALL FORCE  
THEM TO OPEN  
THE GATES. COME.  
LET US NOT  
WASTE ANY TIME.





THE PRIESTS HAD TO GIVE IN. THEY OPENED THE DOOR.

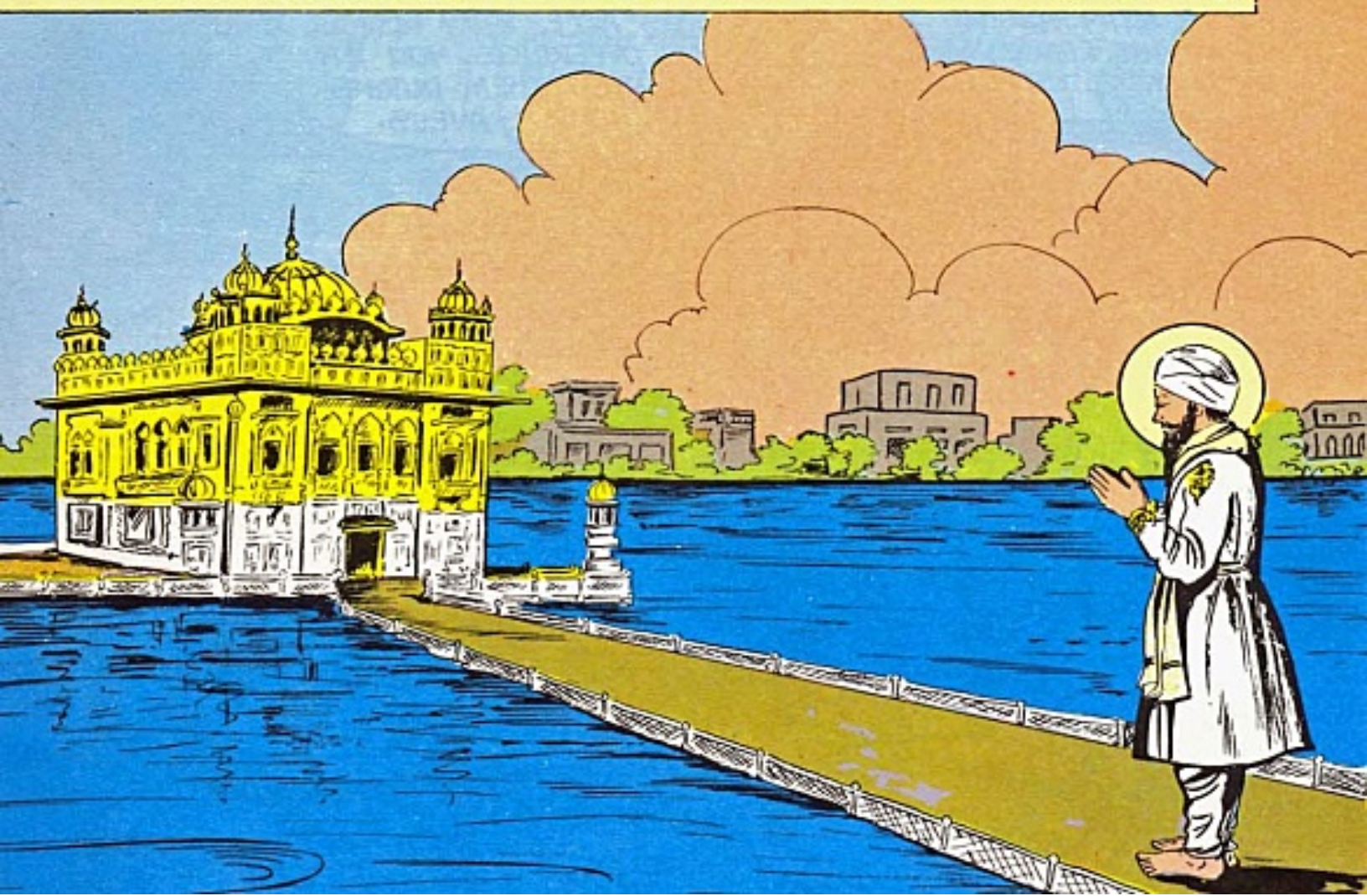




THE NEXT DAY THE PRIESTS APOLOGISED.



GURU TEGH BAHADUR NEXT DAY AGAIN WENT TO HAR MANDIR TO PRAY.





ONCE WHEN THE GURU PASSED THROUGH RUPAR, HE CAMPED IN THE LARGE GARDEN OF SAIFABAD. THE NAWAB OF SAIFABAD AND HIS BEGUM CAME TO SEE THE GURU WITH GIFTS.

WON'T YOU HONOUR ME BY STAYING AT MY HUMBLE DWELLING?

FRIEND SAIFUDDIN, YOU ARE PURE OF HEART. WE ARE PLEASED TO ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION.



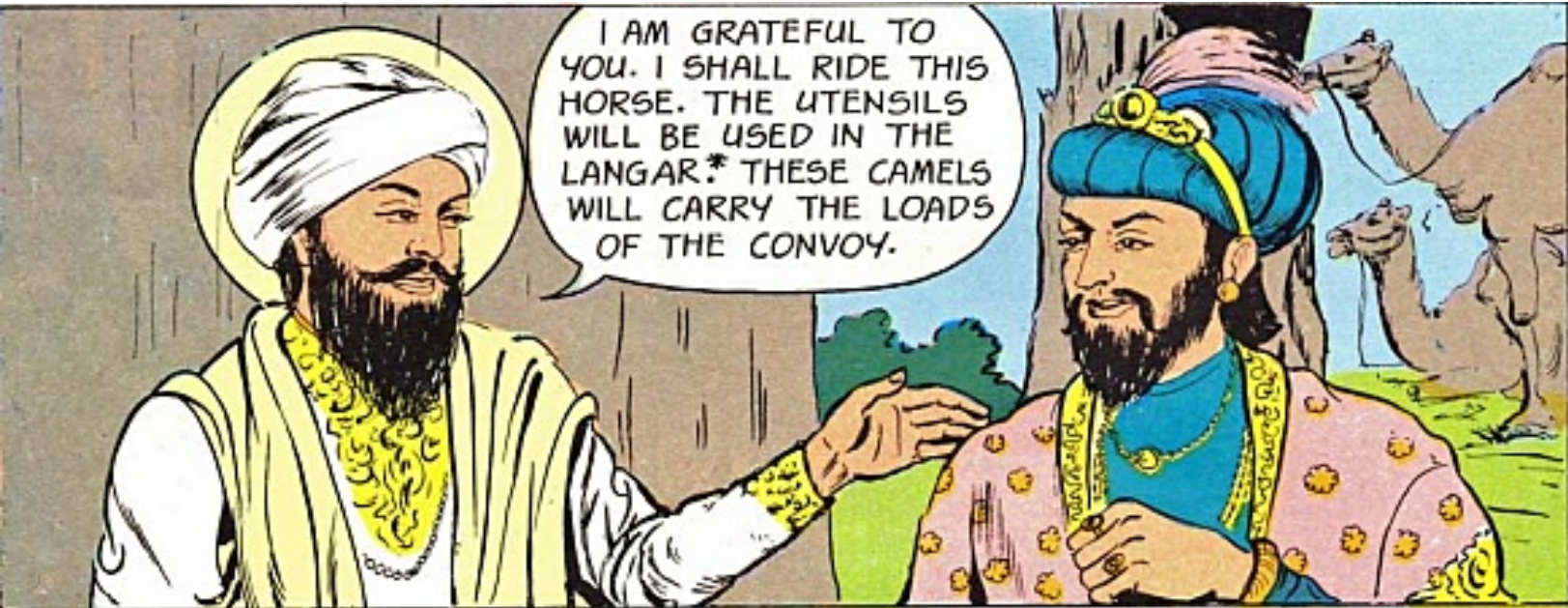
A FORTNIGHT LATER—

I CANNOT STAY FOR LONG AT ONE PLACE. I MUST MOVE ON.

ACCEPT MY HUMBLE OFFERINGS. YOU MAY NEED THEM DURING YOUR TRAVELS.







AT THE HOLY CITY OF VARANASI —



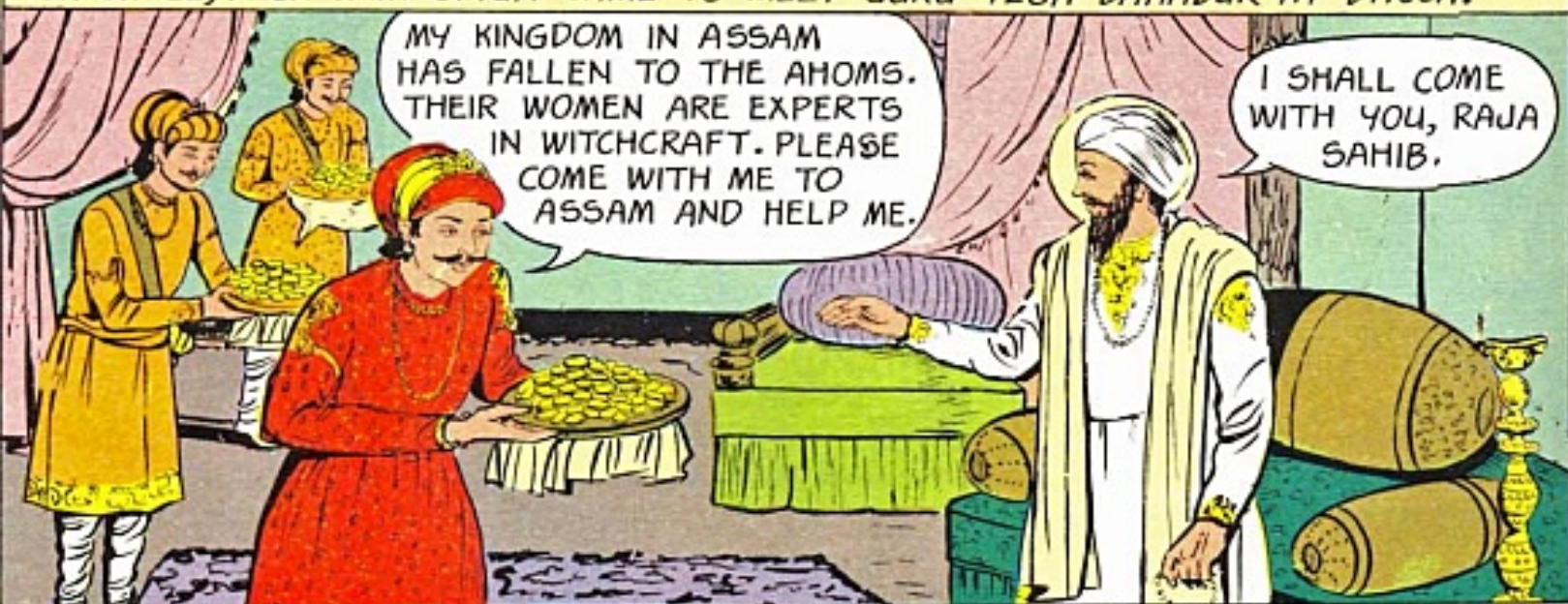
\* COMMUNITY KITCHEN.



WHEN GOBINDRAI \*THE GURU'S SON, WAS BORN AT PATNA, GURU TEGH BAHADUR WAS AT DACCA.



MEANWHILE, RAJA RAM SINGH CAME TO MEET GURU TEGH BAHADUR AT DACCA.



GURU TEGH BAHADUR CAMPED AT DHUBRI IN ASSAM, ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER. FIVE SUFIS BROUGHT BY THE RAJA PRAYED WITH THE GURU'S DISCIPLES.

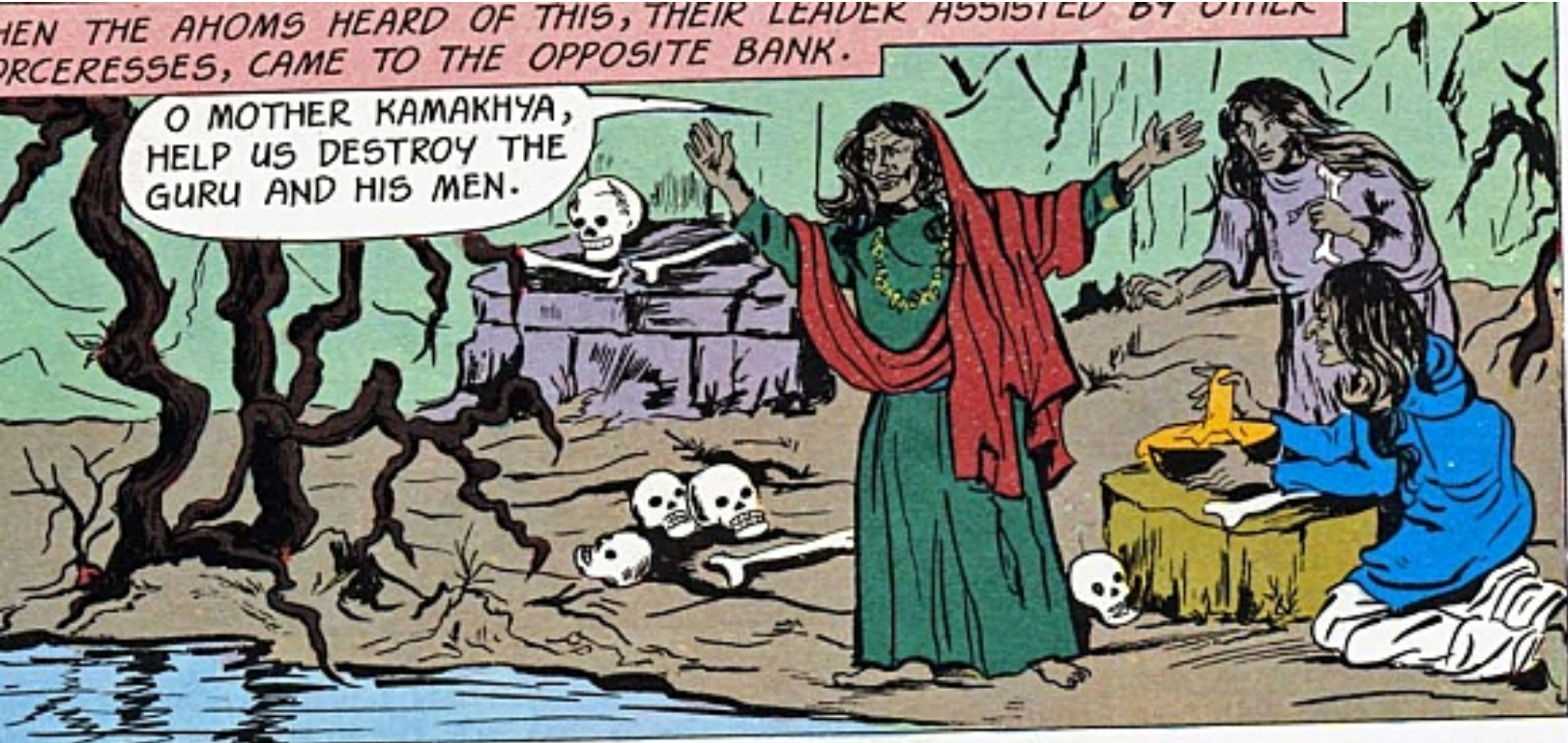


\* WHO LATER BECAME THE TENTH GURU, GOBIND SINGH



WHEN THE AHOMS HEARD OF THIS, THEIR LEADER ASSISTED BY OTHER  
PRCERESSES, CAME TO THE OPPOSITE BANK.

O MOTHER KAMAKHYA,  
HELP US DESTROY THE  
GURU AND HIS MEN.



THEY CREATED A FIRE.

FIRE!

FIRE!

FIX YOUR MINDS  
ON GOD AND NO  
HARM WILL COME  
TO ANYONE.



IN NO TIME, THE FIRE WENT OUT.

WAH-GURU!  
WAH-GURU!



BUT THE AHOMS DID NOT GIVE UP.  
THEY CREATED A TERRIBLE STORM.



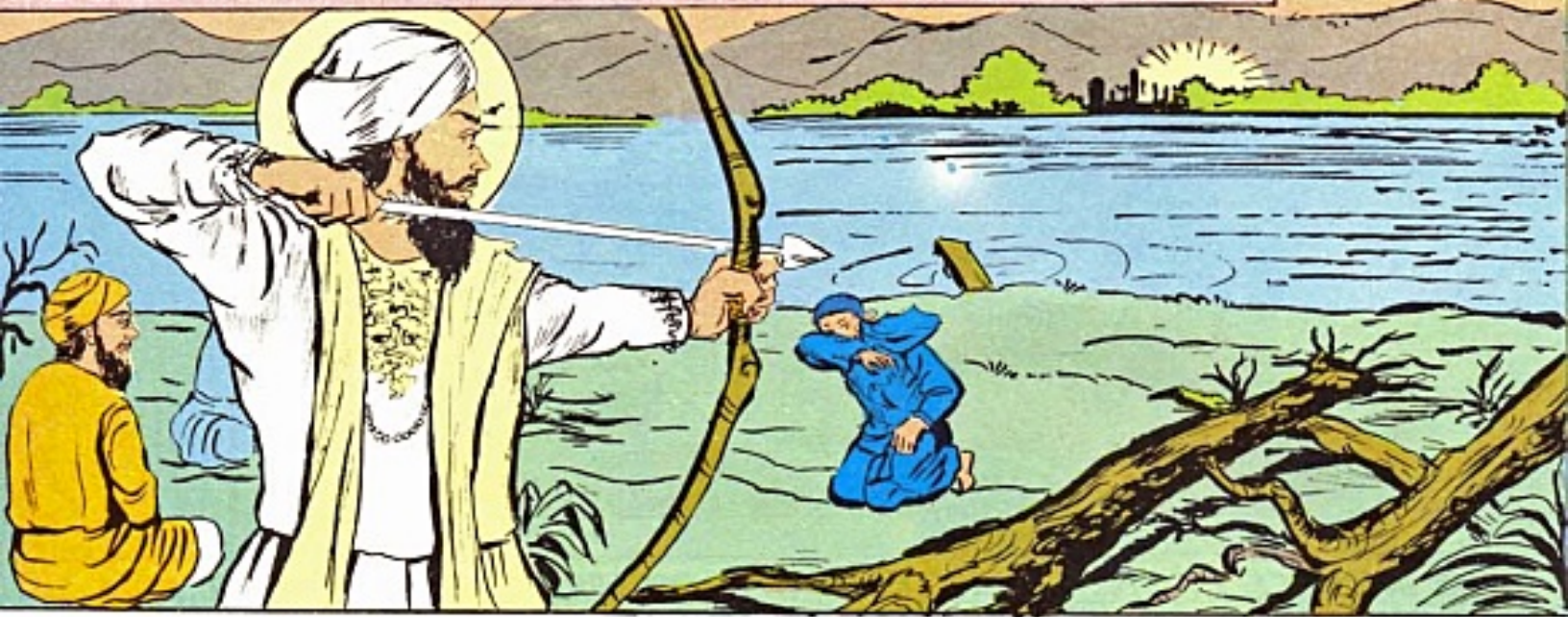


BUT THE GURU WAS UNPERTURBED.





THE TREE FELL NEAR GURU TEGH BAHADUR AND HIS MEN. NO ONE WAS HURT. THE GURU RAISED HIS BOW AND AIMED AT THE ALTAR OF MAGIC.



THE ALTAR WAS DESTROYED AND WITH IT THE POWER OF THE SORCERESSES.



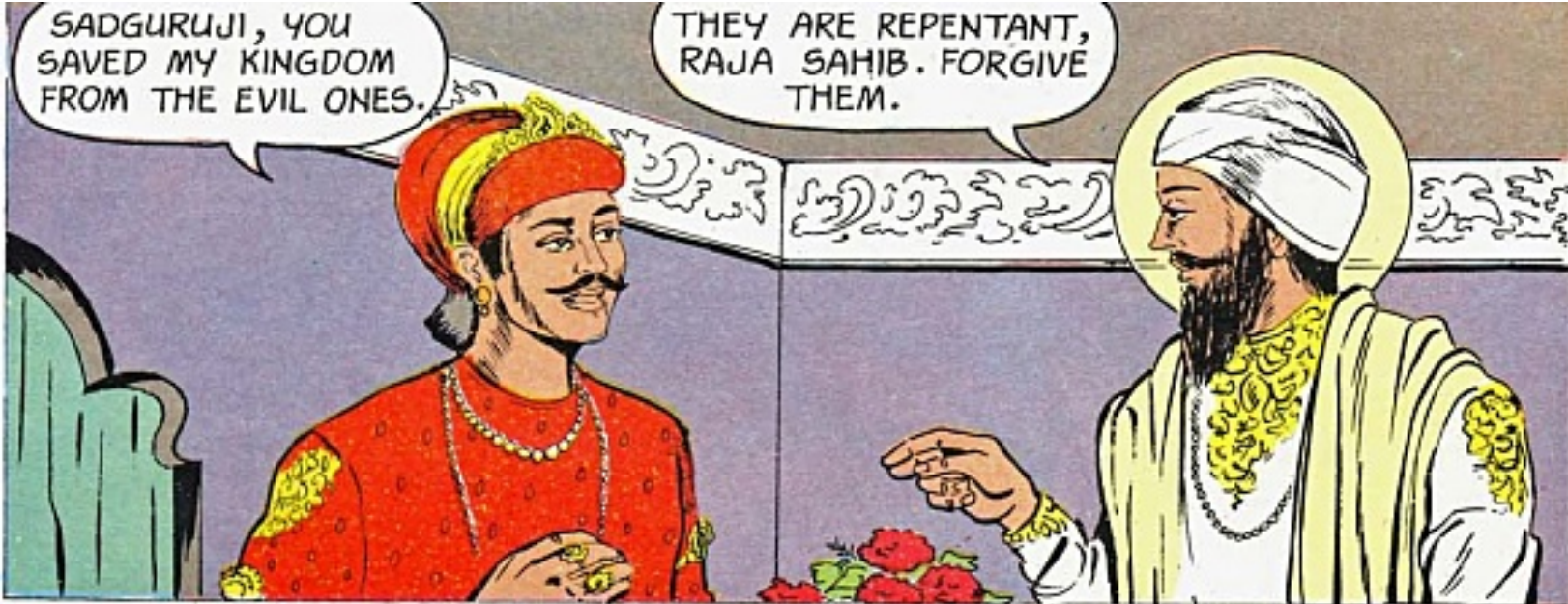
THE LEADER CAME ACROSS AND FELL AT THE GURU'S FEET.





SADGURUJI, YOU  
SAVED MY KINGDOM  
FROM THE EVIL ONES.

THEY ARE REPENTANT,  
RAJA SAHIB. FORGIVE  
THEM.



AT THE INSTANCE OF THE GURU, TRUCE WAS DECLARED BETWEEN RAJA RAM  
SINGH AND THE AHOM KING.

NOW THERE SHOULD BE  
NO WAR BETWEEN YOU.



THERE WILL NOT  
BE. WE ARE GRATEFUL  
TO THE GURU FOR  
SHOWING US THE  
RIGHT PATH.

ONE NIGHT, WHEN THE GURU AND HIS DISCIPLES WERE CAMPING IN THE PUNJAB,  
FOUR THIEVES PROWLED NEAR THEIR TENTS INTENDING TO ROB THEM.  
SUDDENLY —



LOOK!  
A TIGER!

IT MAY KILL US.  
WE MUST RUN  
FOR OUR LIVES.



TWO OF THE THIEVES RAN AWAY.

COWARDS! LET THEM GO. WE SHALL TAKE AWAY THIS FINE HORSE.



BUT THEY WERE CAUGHT AND TAKEN TO THE GURU.

WE ARE THIEVES. WE CAME HERE TO STEAL WHATEVER WE COULD.

WHO ARE YOU, BROTHERS? WHAT DO YOU WANT?



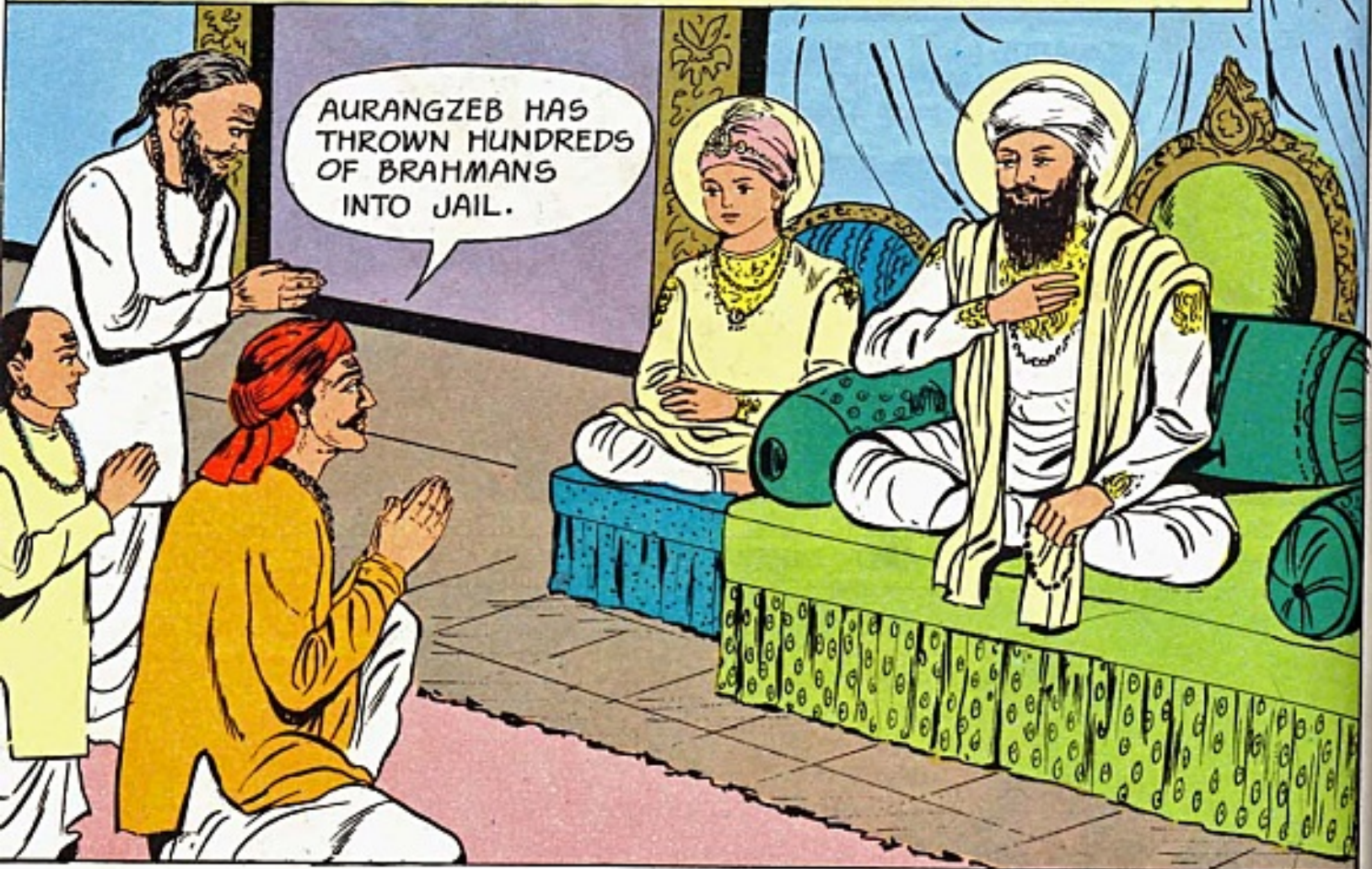
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STEAL WHAT BELONGS TO YOU. TAKE THE HORSE AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED.

NO, GURUJI! FORGIVE US GURUJI. WE HAVE SINNED. FORGIVE US!

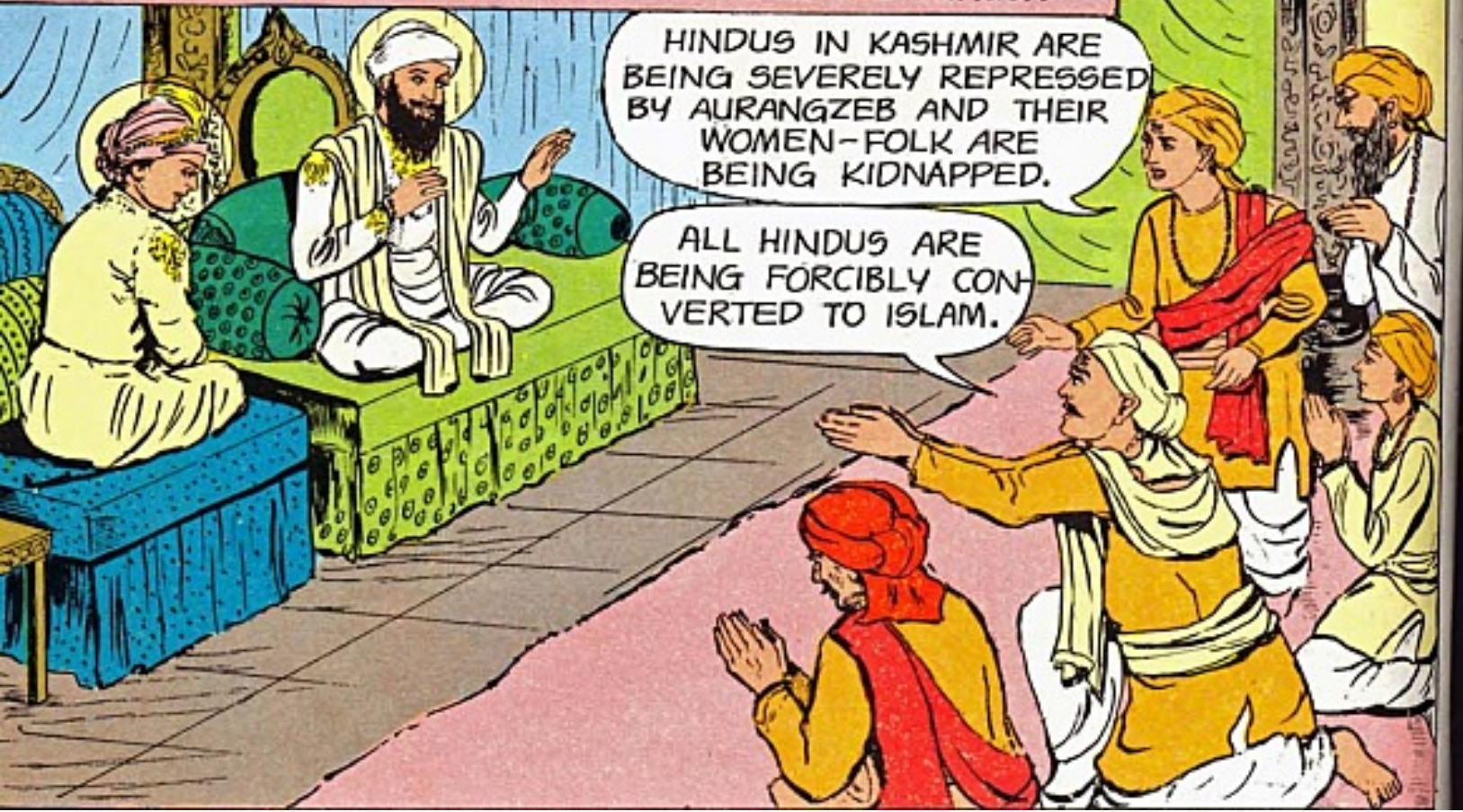




MEANWHILE THERE WAS UNREST IN NORTH INDIA. IT WAS CAUSED BY THE RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE OF THE MUGHAL EMPEROR, AURANGZEB.



ONE DAY, SOME PROMINENT KASHMIRIS CAME TO THE GURUJI.



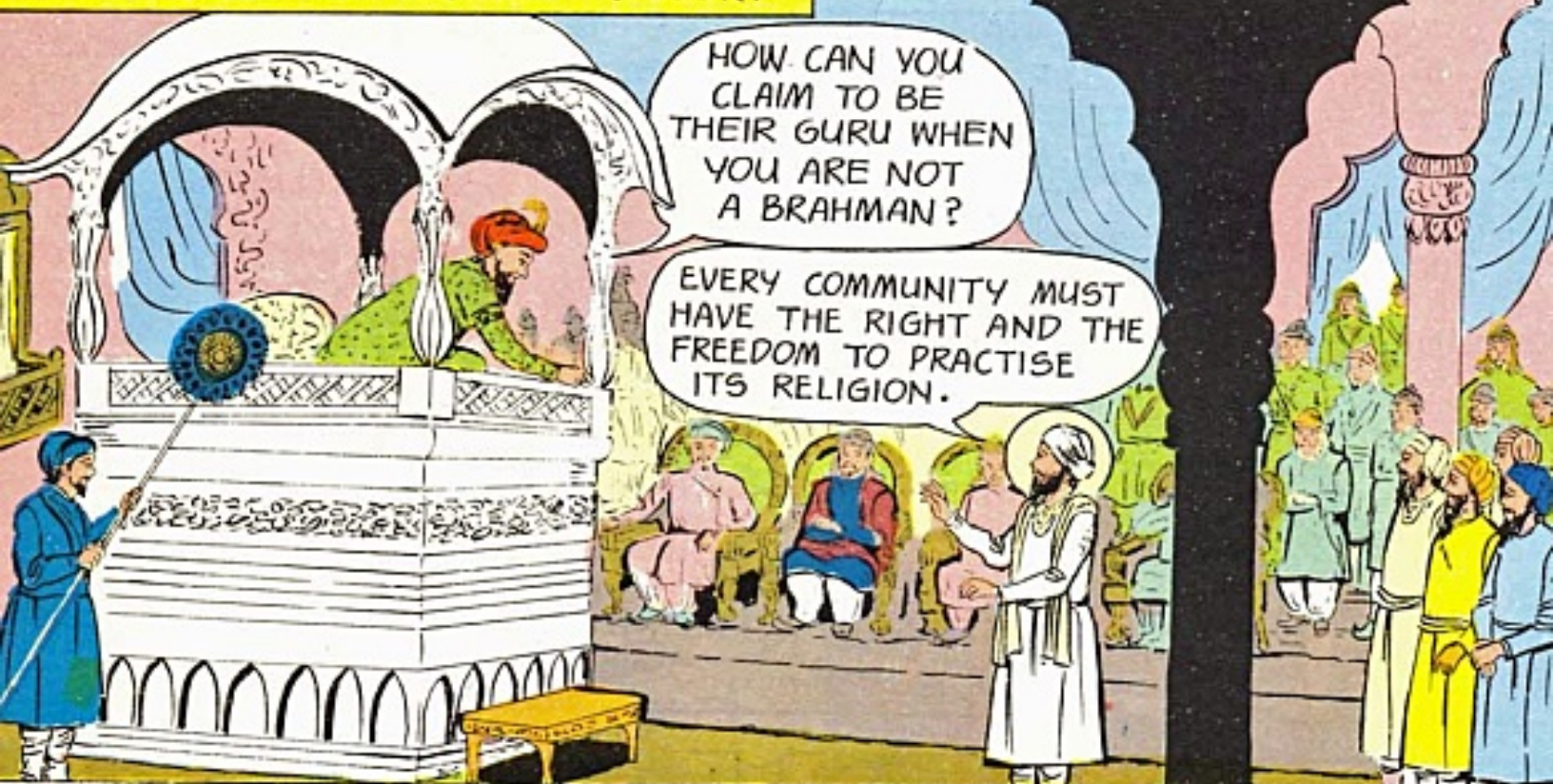


AS A RELIGIOUS LEADER,  
I MUST PROTECT THE DHARMA.



WRITE TO AURANGZEB  
THAT IF HE SUCCEEDS  
IN CONVERTING  
TEGH BAHADUR, ALL  
THE HINDUS OF THE  
COUNTRY WILL ACCEPT  
ISLAM. IF HE FAILS TO  
DO SO, HE MUST GIVE  
UP HIS PERVERTED POLICY  
OF FORCIBLE CONVERSION

AURANGZEB HAD HIM BROUGHT TO COURT.



HOW CAN YOU  
CLAIM TO BE  
THEIR GURU WHEN  
YOU ARE NOT  
A BRAHMAN?

EVERY COMMUNITY MUST  
HAVE THE RIGHT AND THE  
FREEDOM TO PRACTISE  
ITS RELIGION.



GIVE YOUR FINAL  
ANSWER, WHEN ARE  
YOU GOING TO  
EMBRACE ISLAM?

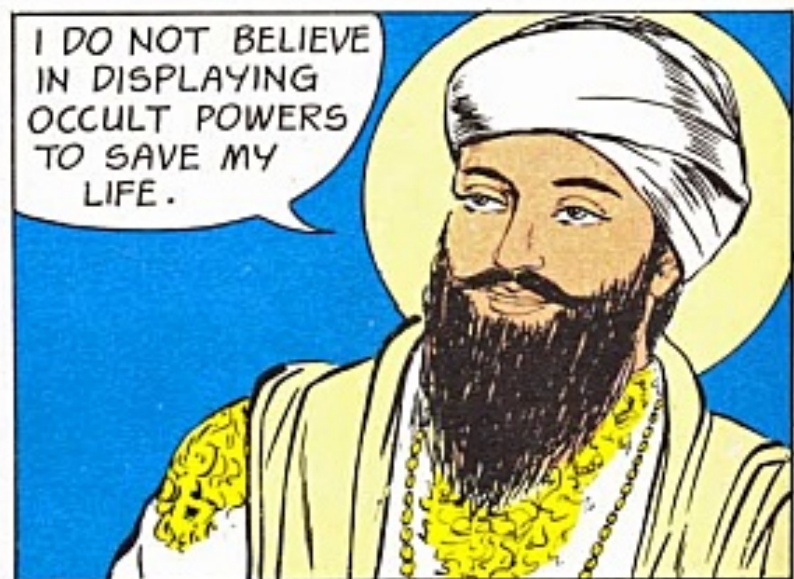
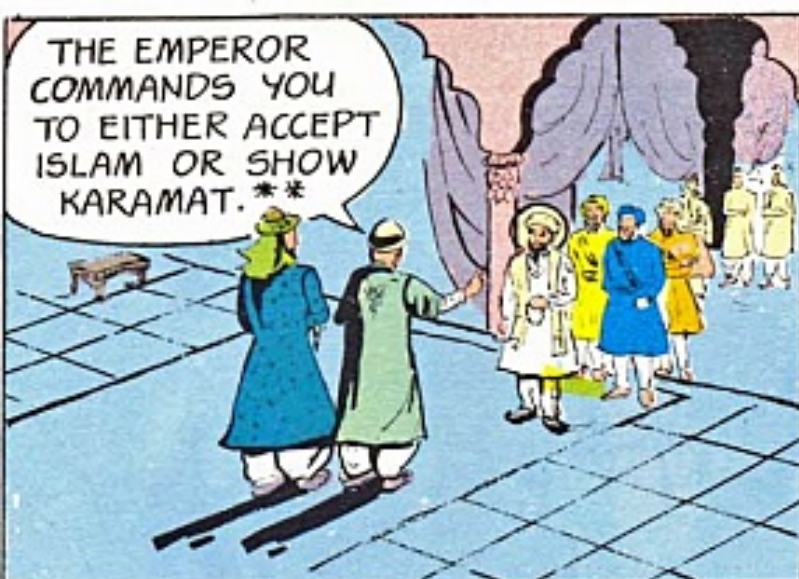
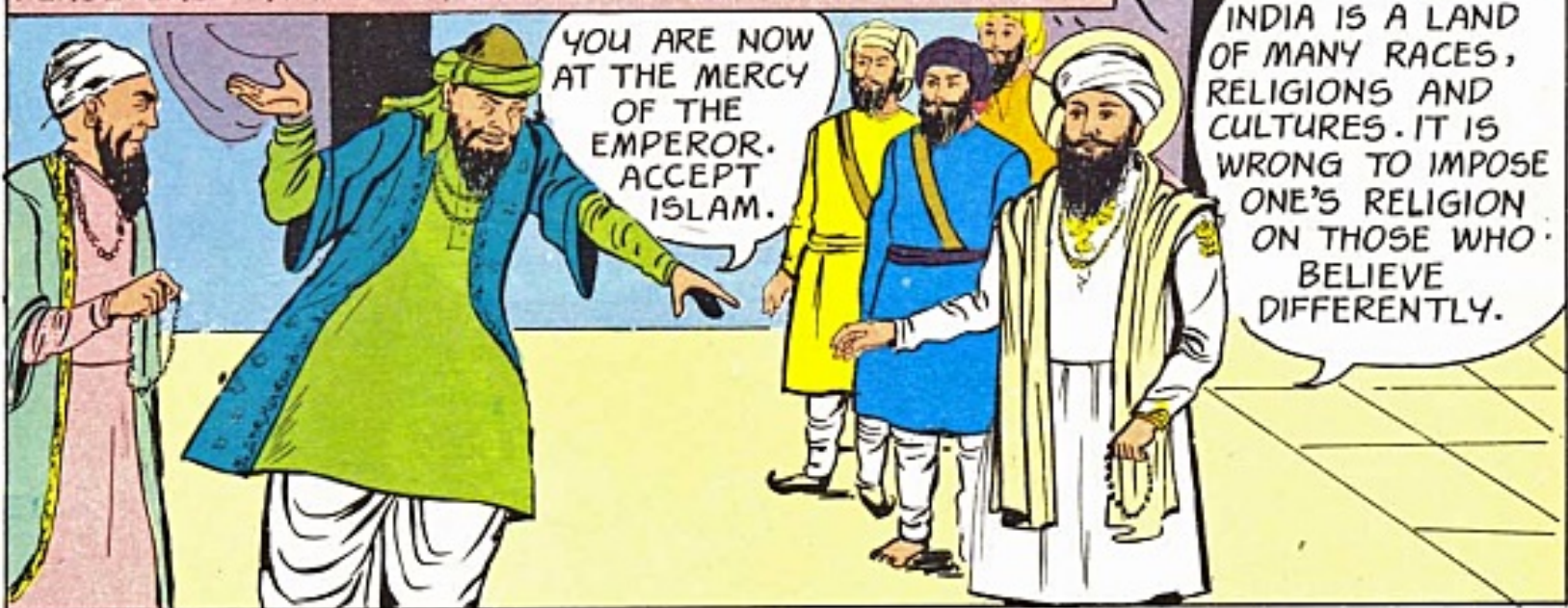
THE POLICY OF FORCED  
CONVERSION CANNOT, IN  
THE LONG RUN, BEAR  
ANY FRUIT, YOUR  
MAJESTY.



GURU TEGH BAHADUR AND HIS COMPANIONS WERE LOCKED UP IN THE CHANDNI CHOWK KOTWALI. SOME PROMINENT SIKHS OF DELHI CAME TO MEET THE GURU.



THE PRISONERS WERE SUMMONED TO THE COURT. AURANGZEB'S QAZI\* PERSEVERED IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO CONVERT THE GURU.









IT WAS TEGH BAHADUR'S TURN NEXT.



HE WAS BEHEADED. THE MUGHALS REFUSED TO GIVE HIS BODY TO HIS DEVOTEES.



BHAI JETHA STOLE THE HEAD OF THE GURU.



THE LORD HAS LEFT FOR HEAVEN.

HOW CAN WE LIVE WITHOUT HIM?

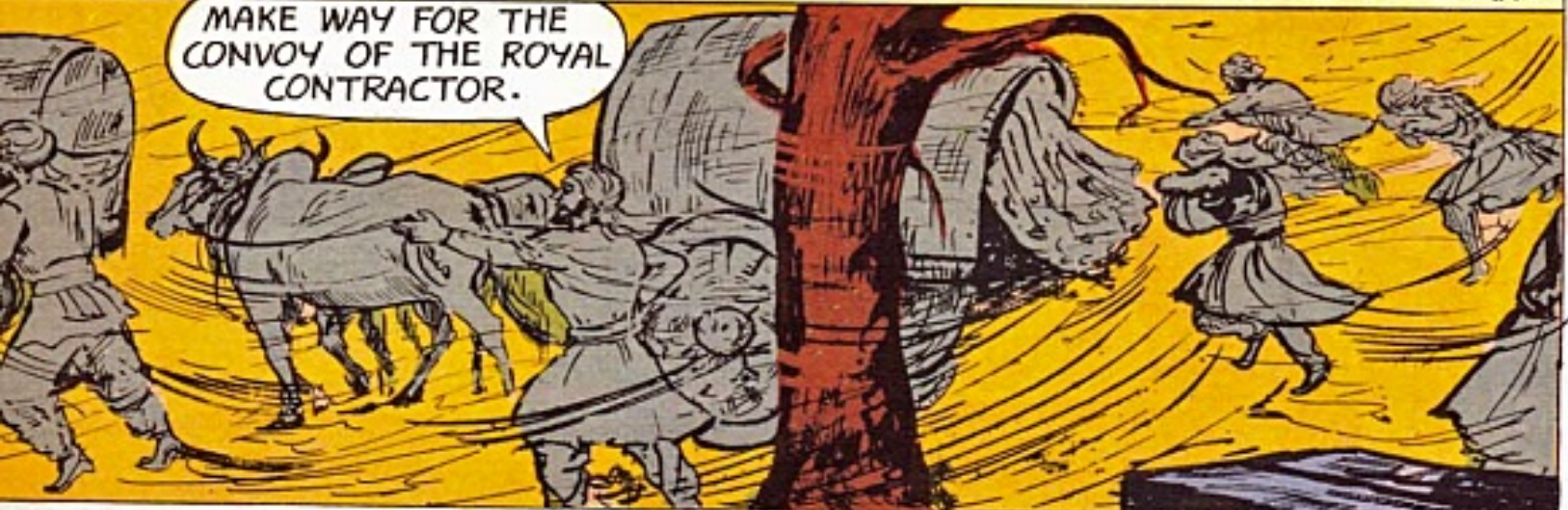


SUDDENLY A STORM BROKE IN THE CITY.



A CONVOY APPROACHED THE SITE. IT BELONGED TO LAKHI SHAH, THE BANJARA.\*

MAKE WAY FOR THE CONVOY OF THE ROYAL CONTRACTOR.



\*A NOMADIC COMMUNITY WHO MADE ITS LIVING BY TRANSPORTING GOODS FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.



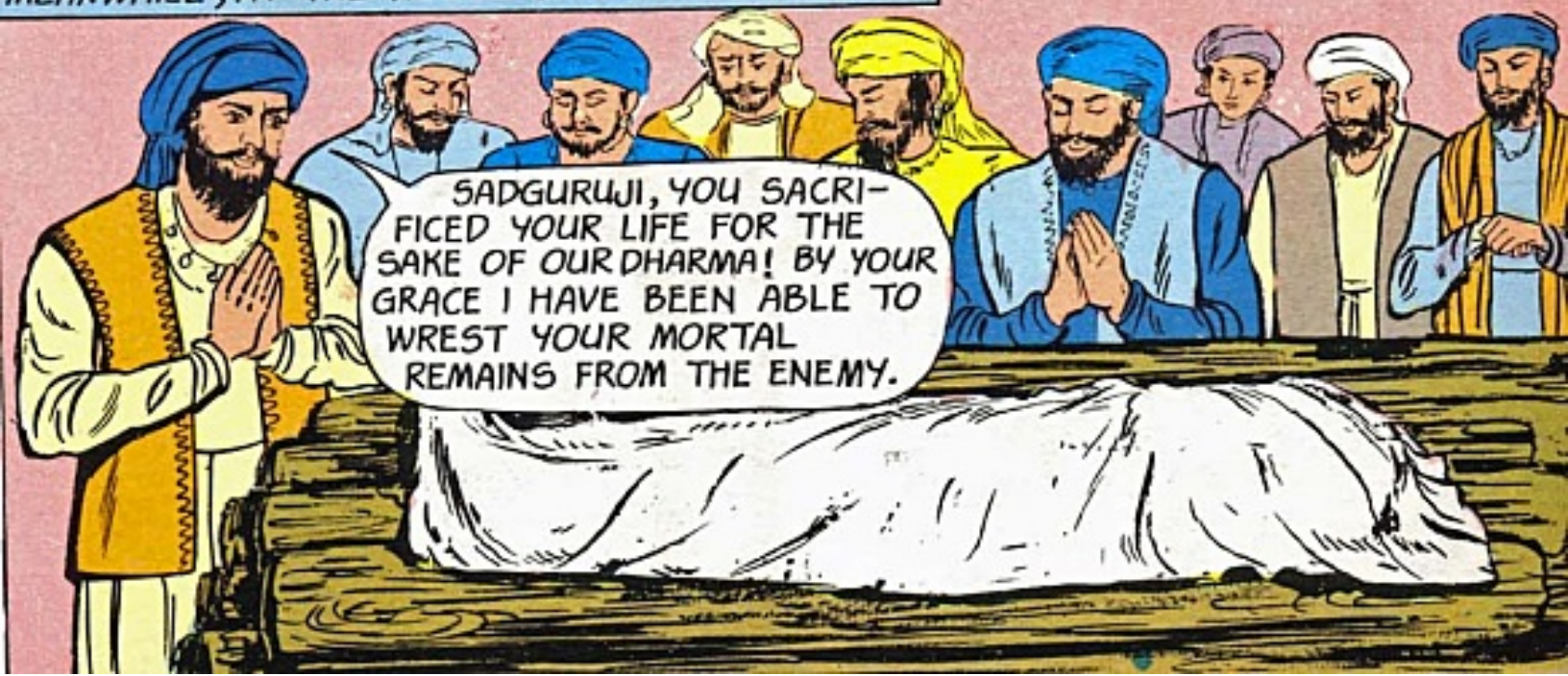
AS SOON AS THE CONVOY DEPARTED, THE STORM SUBSIDED.

THE HEAD AND  
THE BODY HAVE  
DISAPPEARED!

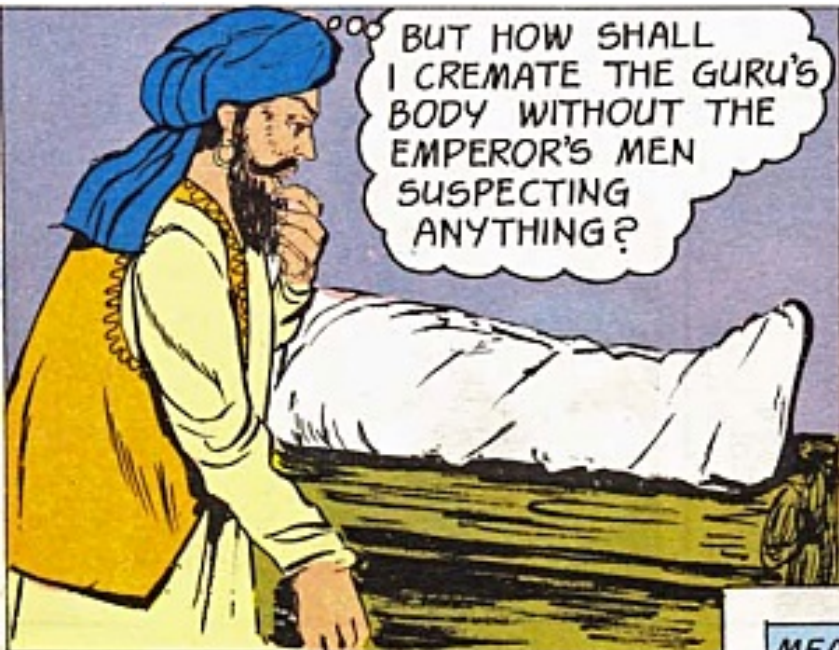
IT'S A MIRACLE!



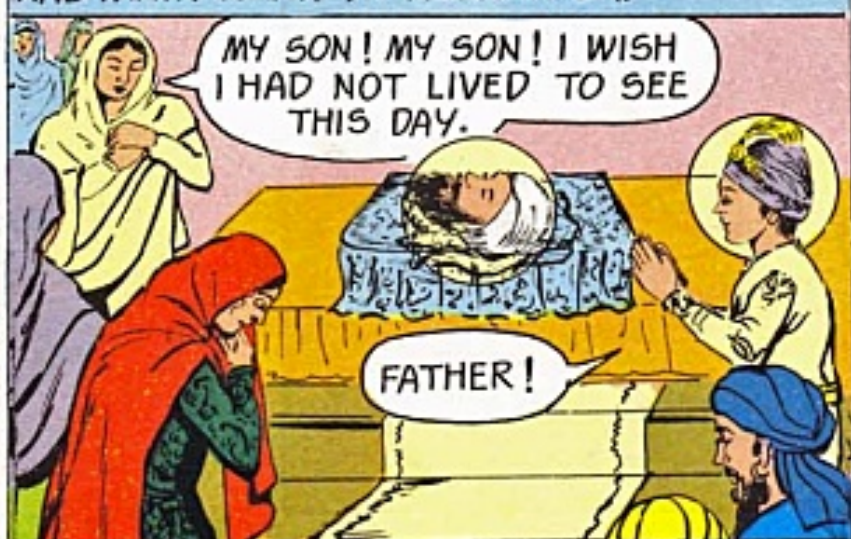
MEANWHILE, AT THE HOUSE OF LAKHI SHAH —







MEANWHILE BHAI JETHA CARRIED THE HEAD OF THE GURU TO GOBINDRAI, MATA GUJRI AND MATA NANKI AT KEERATPUR.



THEY CARRIED THE HEAD OF THE GURU, IN A PALANQUIN, TO ANANDPUR.

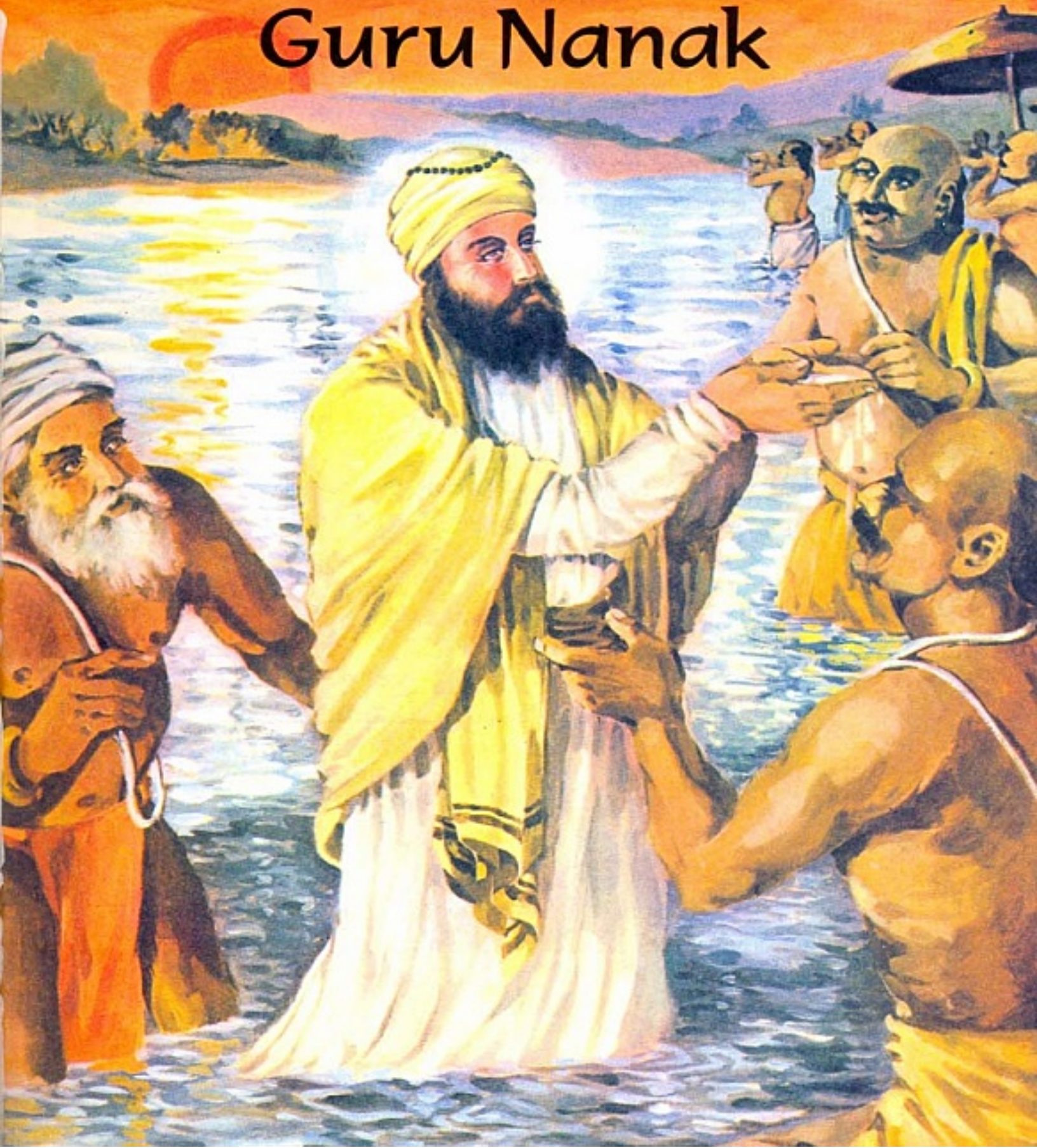


THERE, LAY THE HEAD OF THE GURU WHO SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE DHARMA. IT WAS CREMATED AND TO THIS DAY, HE IS REMEMBERED WITH LOVE AND ADMIRATION BY PEOPLE OF ALL CREEDS.





# Guru Nanak







## Illustrated Classics From India

### Guru Nanak

Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, was born in a critical period of India's history. On the one hand, people were divided into castes, sects and factions; on the other, the Muslim rulers committed atrocities on the Hindus and other weaker sections of society. Overcome by hardship and misery, the people cried for a saviour. Nanak came as God's messenger in the common man's hour of need.

It was a period of transition from medieval times to modern. Men of action and thought explored the world of matter and spirit. Guru Nanak revealed the secret of man's spiritual potential. Similarly, he accepted life's struggles and hardships and pioneered a movement of reform in social and religious conduct. He reformed the dregs of society through argument, conviction and personal example. His followers, called 'Sikhs', formed a group of God-fearing men and women devoted to the service of the people. He laid down simple rules of conduct through which man could find fulfillment in leading a humane and meaningful life.

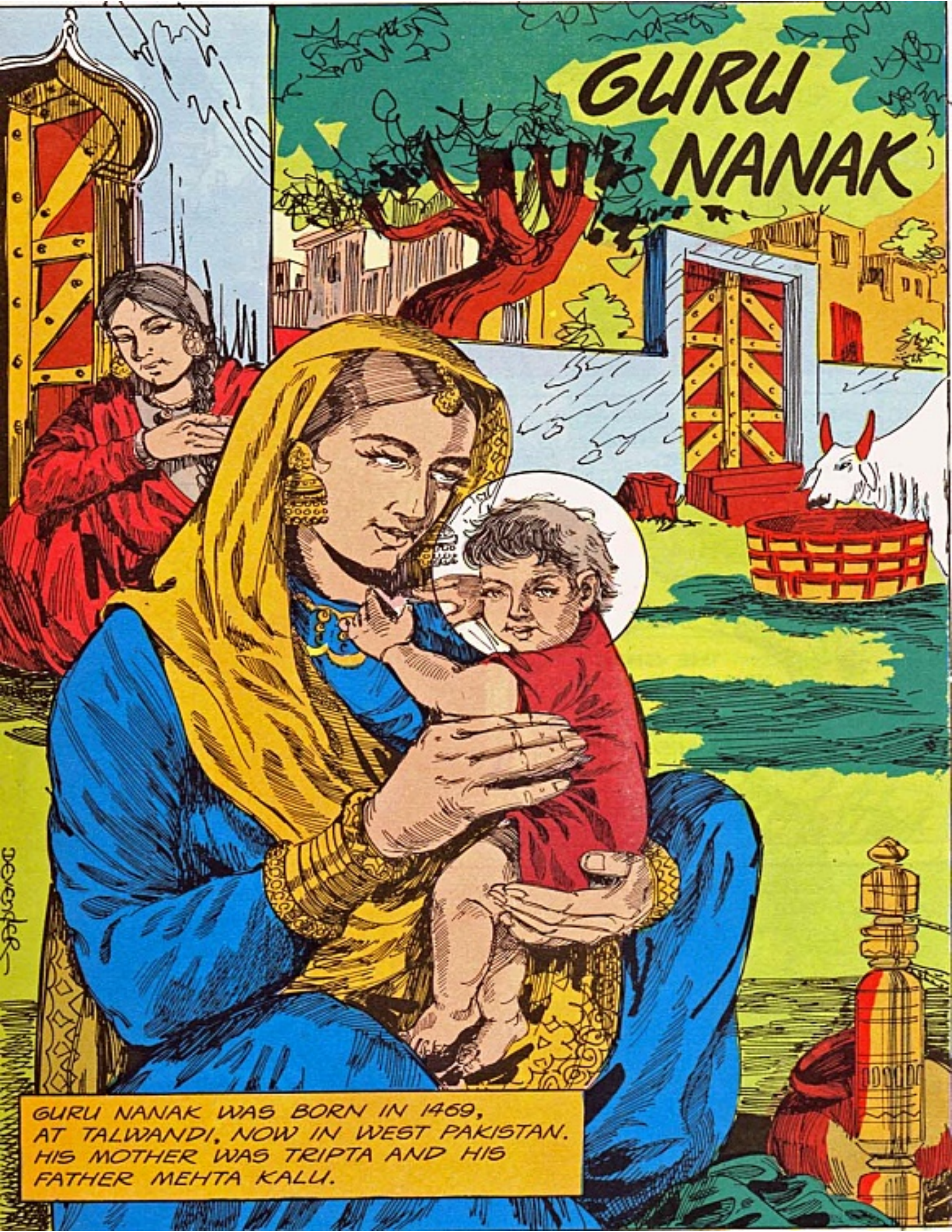
Hindus and Muslims alike revered him. His life is an inspiring example of the practice of truth, love and humility.

Script approved by Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, Amritsar

Script: G.S. Mansukhani and Naniki Mansukhani      Illustrations: Devender

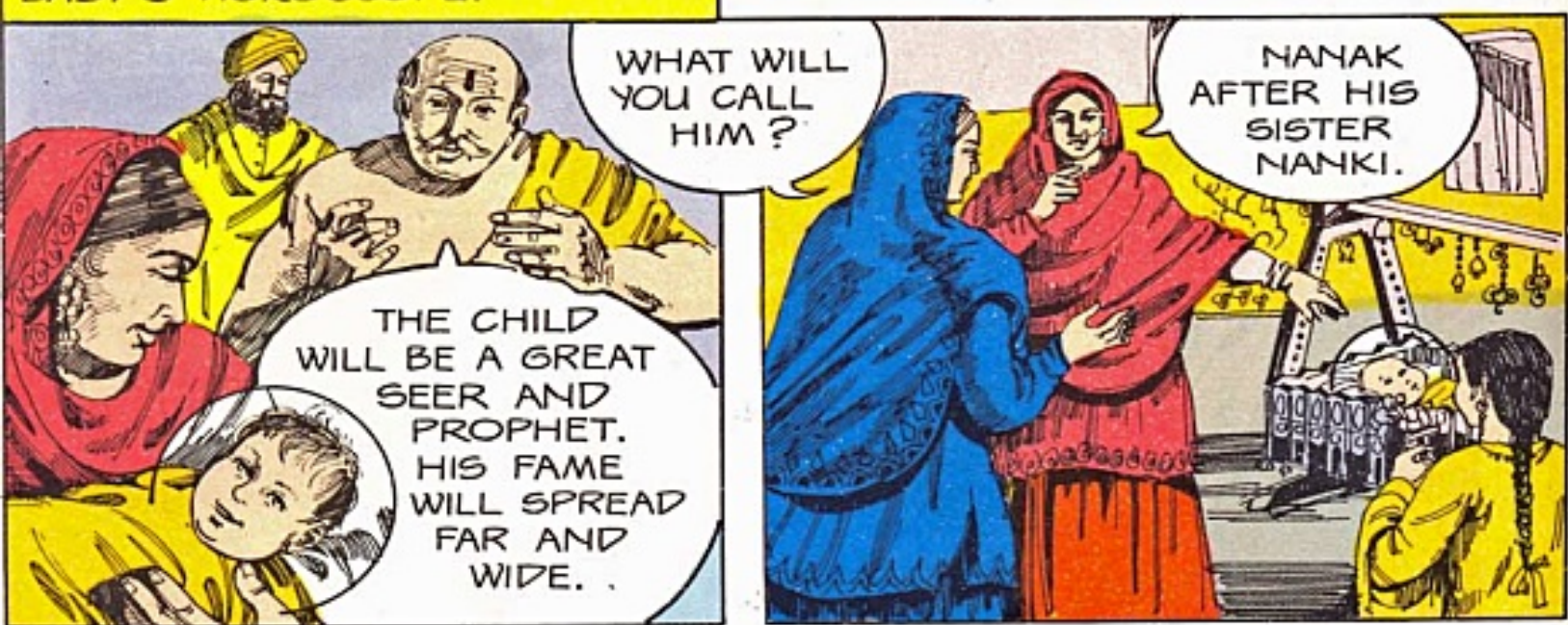


# GURU NANAK



GURU NANAK WAS BORN IN 1469,  
AT TALWANDI, NOW IN WEST PAKISTAN.  
HIS MOTHER WAS TRIPTA AND HIS  
FATHER MEHTA KALU.







TRIPTA TOO WAS HAPPY TO SEE HOW GENEROUS NANAK WAS.

WHY NOT! THERE IS ENOUGH FOR ALL OF YOU.

THANK YOU, MOTHER.



NANAK TOOK THE SWEETS AND RAN TO HIS FRIENDS.

SEE WHAT I HAVE!  
SEE WHAT I HAVE!



AND HE BEGAN DISTRIBUTING THE SWEETS.

MOTHER GAVE ME ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US.

MMM!

DELICIOUS.



AS SOON AS THEY HAD EATEN THE SWEETS—

COME LET'S RUN RACES!

I'M IN NANAK'S TEAM.

ME TOO!





THEY PLAYED FOR A WHILE. THEN...

I'VE HAD ENOUGH!  
LET'S REST.

LET'S GO  
TO THE  
POND.



AT THE POND...

COME, LET'S SING  
THE NAME OF GOD.  
YOU LEAD.



ALL OF THEM SANG BUT  
NANAK'S VOICE CARRIED  
THE MOST FERVOUR.

AT THAT MOMENT RAI BULAR,  
THE MUSLIM LANDLORD FOR  
WHOM NANAK'S FATHER  
WORKED, WAS PASSING  
THAT WAY.

WHAT A  
MELODIOUS VOICE!  
HOW SOOTHING THE  
WORDS. NANAK IS NO  
ORDINARY CHILD.



RAI BULAR, UNOBSERVED, SAT ON  
THE GRASS, FORGETTING THE  
MATERIAL WORLD AS HE LOST  
HIMSELF IN THE DIVINE SONG.





WHEN NANAK WAS SIX  
YEARS OLD



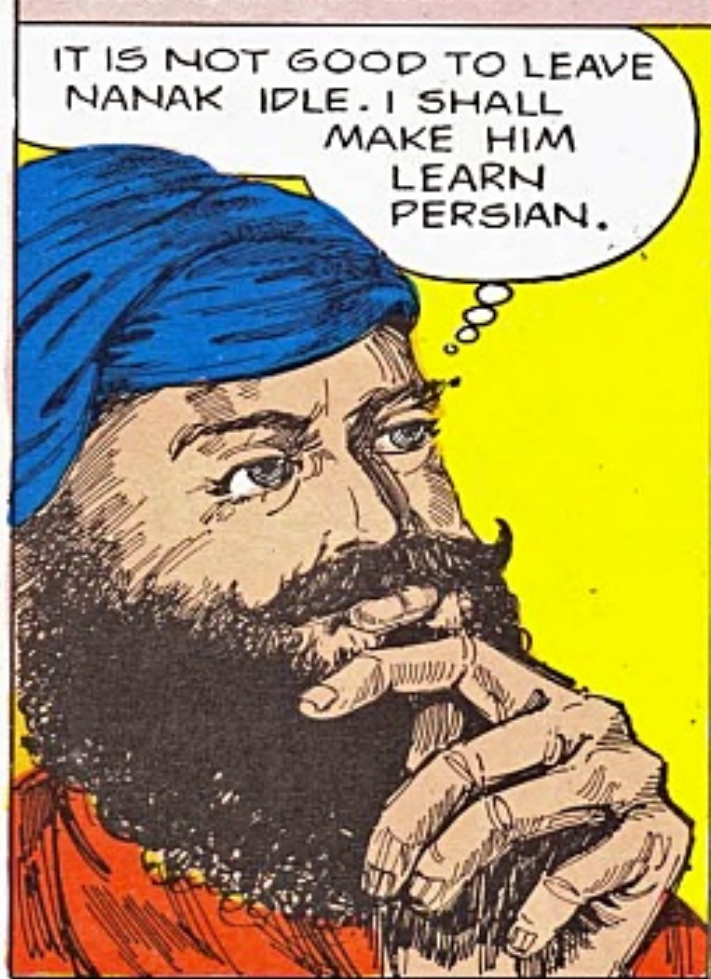
HE WAS AN EXCELLENT PUPIL AND  
SOON MASTERED ALL THERE WAS  
TO LEARN.



SO HE WENT TO MEHTA KALU.



AFTER HE LEFT—





BUT THE SAME THING HAPPENED WITH THE PERSIAN TEACHER. NANAK MASTERED ALL WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD AND HIS TEACHER BROUGHT HIM BACK TO MEHTA KALLU.

NANAK BY THEN WAS ABOUT TEN YEARS OLD.

IT IS TIME NANAK HAD HIS SACRED THREAD CEREMONY.

I SHALL ASK HARDAYAL TO SUGGEST AN AUSPICIOUS DATE.



THE DATE WAS FIXED AND ALL NEIGHBOURS, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES WERE INVITED. THE CEREMONY BEGAN.



BUT THE MOMENT HARDAYAL TOOK THE SACRED THREAD TO PUT IT OVER NANAK'S NECK...

WAIT, SIR.  
WHY MUST I WEAR THIS THREAD?

IT IS  
SACRED.



WILL IT MAKE ME GOOD  
AND KIND?

I...I'M NOT SURE.







ALL PRESENT WERE CONVINCED ABOUT THE TRUTH OF HIS WORDS.

HE IS RIGHT!

MERE RITUALS MEAN NOTHING.

COME, LET'S GO BACK HOME.



AFTER THIS, NANAK WANDERED WITH HIS FRIENDS BUT SPENT LESS TIME ON PLAY AND MORE TIME IN SINGING RELIGIOUS SONGS IN THE COMPANY OF HOLY MEN.



MEHTA KALU WAS WORRIED.

HE HAS NOTHING LEFT TO LEARN. HE HAS DEFIED TRADITION AND YET CONVINCED THE ELDERS.



IF HE CONTINUES THIS WAY, I'M AFRAID HE'LL BECOME AN IDLER.



I KNOW WHAT. I'LL MAKE HIM TEND CATTLE.

THAT'S IT. HE WILL BE DOING SOME USEFUL WORK. AT THE SAME TIME HE CAN BE IN THE FOREST WHICH HE LOVES SO DEARLY.



MEHTA KALU CALLED NANAK TO HIM.

SON, YOU MUST KEEP YOURSELF BUSY. WILL YOU TAKE CHARGE OF GRAZING THE CATTLE?



WITH PLEASURE, FATHER.









RAI BULAR WAS UNHAPPY.  
HE WENT TO KALU AND  
TOLD HIM WHAT HAD  
HAPPENED.

YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE  
GOOD THE LOSS. THAT  
IS ONLY FAIR.



EXCUSE ME, SIR. WOULDN'T  
IT BE PROPER FIRST TO  
SEE THE FIELD.



THEY WENT TO THE FIELD  
AND LO!

THE CORN IS  
UNTOUCHED. YOU HAVE  
WASTED OUR TIME FOR  
NOTHING.

B...BUT  
I...I... I'M  
SORRY.



AND NANAK CONTIN-  
UED TAKING THE  
CATTLE OUT AS  
USUAL.



ONE SUCH DAY, OVERCOME BY THE  
HEAT, NANAK FELL ASLEEP. THE SUN'S  
RAYS FELL HOT  
UPON HIM.



A COBRA  
SLITHERED  
OUT OF A  
HOLE  
NEARBY.





... AND COMING UP TO NANAK, SPREAD ITS HOOD OUT TO SHADE HIS FACE.



AT THAT MOMENT RAI BULAR HAPPENED TO PASS BY.



HE WALKED CAUTIOUSLY TOWARDS NANAK.



BUT AS SOON AS THE COBRA SAW HIM IT SLID BACK INTO ITS HOLE.





AFTER THIS FOR A SPELL NANAK BECAME MOROSE AND MOODY AND WOULD NOT EVEN GO OUT TO TEND THE CATTLE.

I WONDER WHAT'S COME OVER HIM. I CAN NO LONGER BEAR HIS MOODINESS.

LET'S CALL IN THE VAID.\*



WITH THIS REALISATION NANAK BECAME HIS OLD SELF.

WHAT A RELIEF TO SEE HIM OUT OF IT.



YES IT IS GOOD TO SEE HIM CHEERFUL AGAIN.

BUT WHEN THE VAID CAME...

YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HELP ME. HE WHO HAS GIVEN ME THE ACHE ALONE CAN CURE ME.

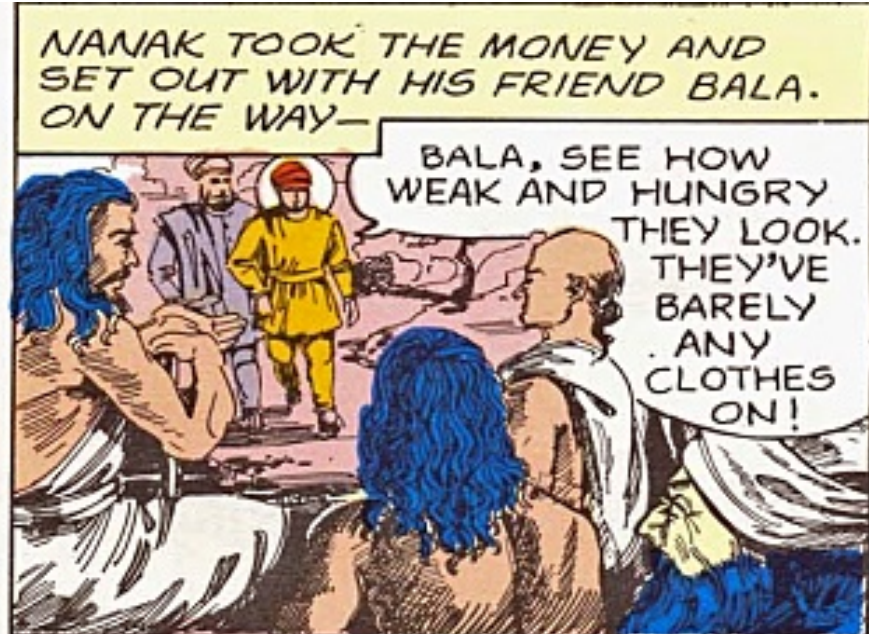


KALU MADE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO INTEREST NANAK IN AN OCCUPATION.

YOU ARE NOW GROWN-UP, AND SHOULD STAND ON YOUR OWN FEET.









WHEN NANAK TOLD HIM WHAT HE HAD DONE WITH THE MONEY...

HOW DARE YOU  
WASTE MY  
HARD-EARNED  
MONEY?

THERE IS NOTHING  
MORE PROFITABLE  
THAN FEEDING  
THE POOR.

NANKI AND HER HUSBAND JAI RAM WERE AT HOME ON A VISIT.

FATHER!  
FATHER!  
STOP!

NANAK, COME  
WITH ME.

WHEN RAI BULAR HEARD OF  
THE INCIDENT...

TELL NANKI AND  
JAI RAM  
THAT I'D  
LIKE TO  
SEE THEM.

YES,  
SIR.

WHEN THEY CAME...

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE  
NANAK TO SULTANPUR  
AND FIND  
HIM A  
JOB?

A  
GOOD  
IDEA!



NANKI TOO HAD A SUGGESTION.

I THINK WE SHOULD GET HIM  
MARRIED. SULAKHNI,  
MOOLCHAND'S  
DAUGHTER,  
WOULD BE  
A GOOD  
MATCH!



THE PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED AND  
NANAK WAS MARRIED TO SULAKHNI  
IN 1485. THERE WAS GREAT  
REJOICING IN THE FAMILY.



A SWEET GIRL.  
LET'S HOPE SHE  
SUCCEEDS IN MAKING  
NANAK A PRACTICAL  
AND WORLDLY MAN

MARDANA, NANAK'S FRIEND, CAME TO THE WEDDING.



WHAT GIFT WILL YOU  
GIVE ME TO REMEMBER  
THIS  
OCCASION?

WHAT GIFT CAN  
BE MORE APT  
FOR YOU THAN  
AN INSTRUMENT  
TO MAKE MUSIC  
WITH? YOU CAN  
HAVE THIS  
REBECK.

THE GIFT WAS NOT FOR MARDANA ALONE. FOR IN THE EVENINGS,  
AFTER THE DAY'S WORK, NANAK WOULD HURRY TO JOIN MARDANA  
AND TOGETHER THEY WOULD SING THE PRAISES OF GOD  
MANY LOVERS OF GOD AND MUSIC JOINED THEM AND  
NANAK'S FAME SPREAD.



MEANWHILE, JAI RAM, WHO WAS IN THE COURT OF DAULAT KHAN LODI, SOON FOUND NANAK A JOB.

THIS IS NANAK ABOUT WHOM I SPOKE TO YOU.

WE SHALL APPOINT HIM AS A STOREKEEPER IN THE STATE GRANARY.



NANAK HAD TWO SONS.



HE CONTINUED SERVING IN THE STATE GRANARY FOR TWELVE YEARS. THEN—

DAULAT KHAN IS PARTIAL TO NANAK.

LET US TURN THE KHAN AGAINST HIM...





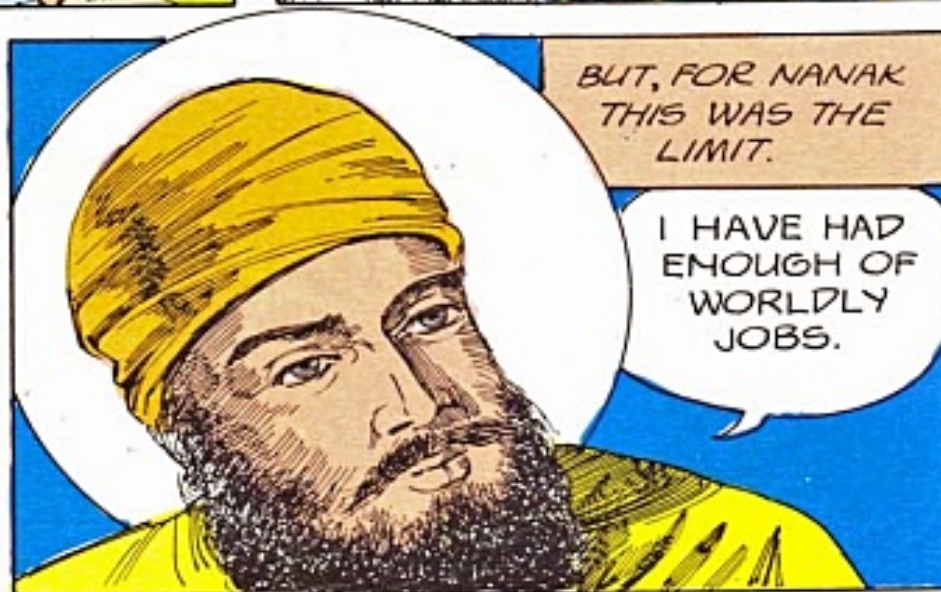
SO THEY WENT TO THE KHAN.



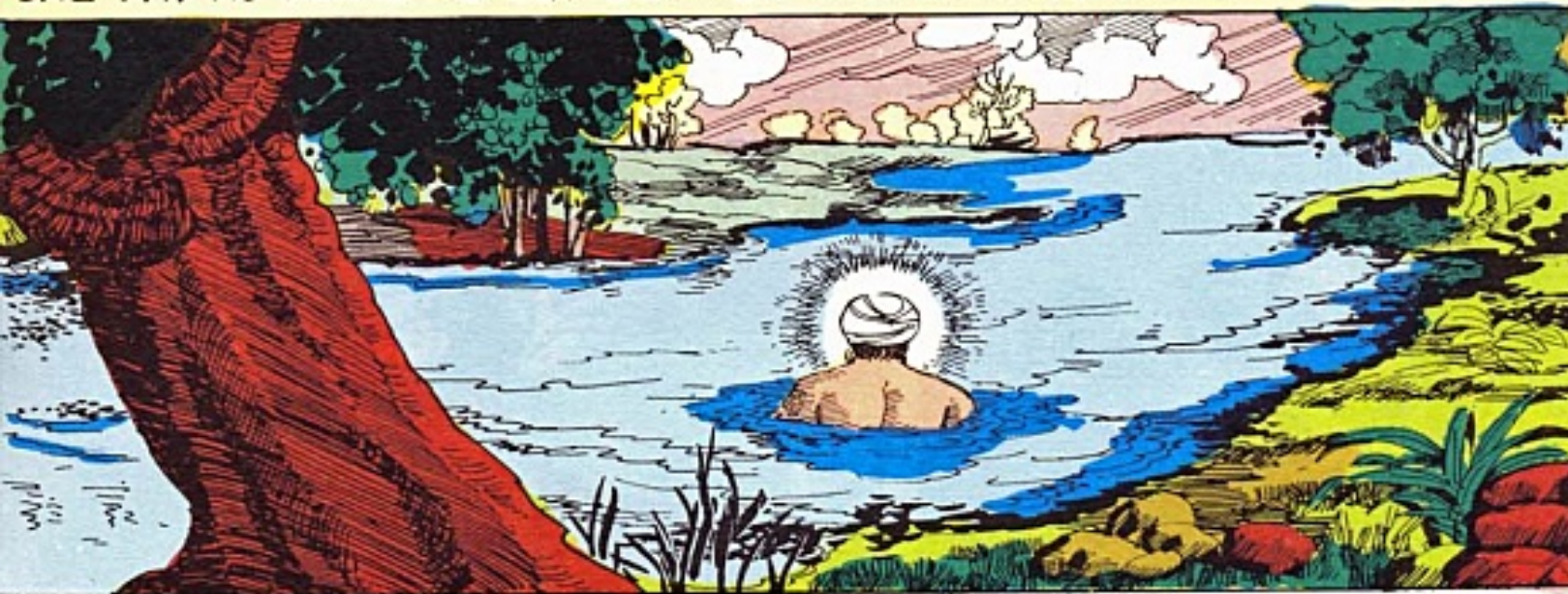
THE ACCOUNTANT SOON RETURNED.



THE KHAN WAS FURIOUS WITH THE CONSPIRATORS.



ONE DAY AS USUAL HE SET OUT FOR THE STREAM, TO BATHE.







NANKI CAME TO HIS HOME IN THE EVENING.

HERE ARE SOME SWEETS FOR... WHY? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HE...HE...HAS NOT COME HOME YET.



DON'T CRY. WE WILL SEND OUT A SEARCH PARTY.



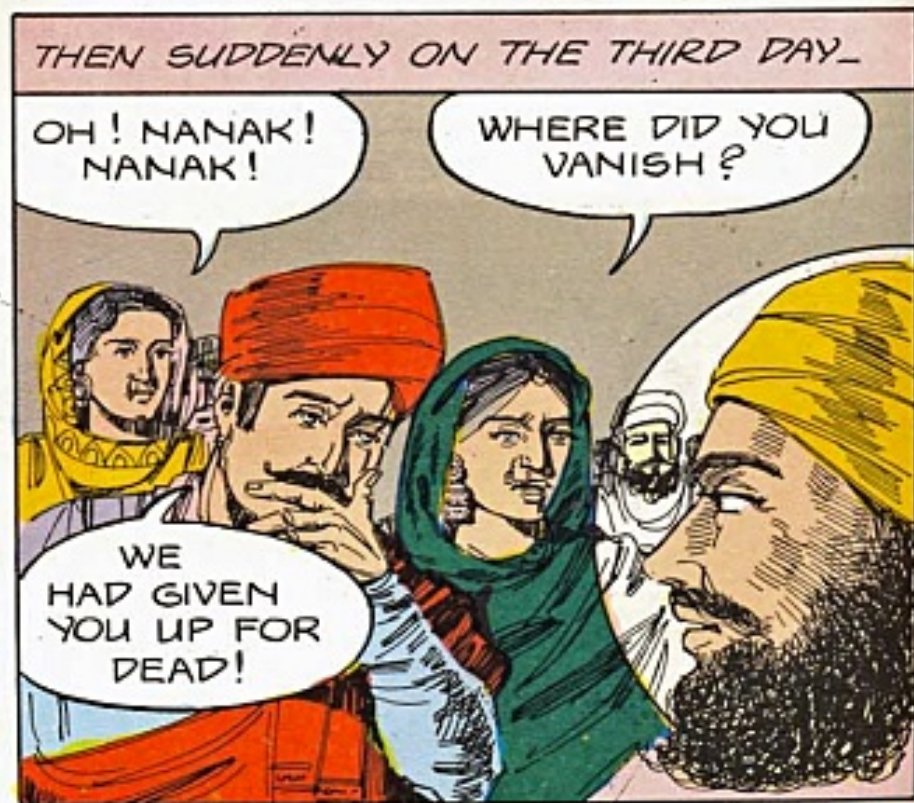
BUT AFTER A VAIN SEARCH...

HE MUST HAVE ...

SORRY, THERE IS NO SIGN OF HIM.

DROWNED IN THE RIVER.

THE WHOLE FAMILY WAS STEEPED IN GLOOM.



THEN SUDDENLY ON THE THIRD DAY...

OH! NANAK! NANAK!

WHERE DID YOU VANISH?

WE HAD GIVEN YOU UP FOR DEAD!

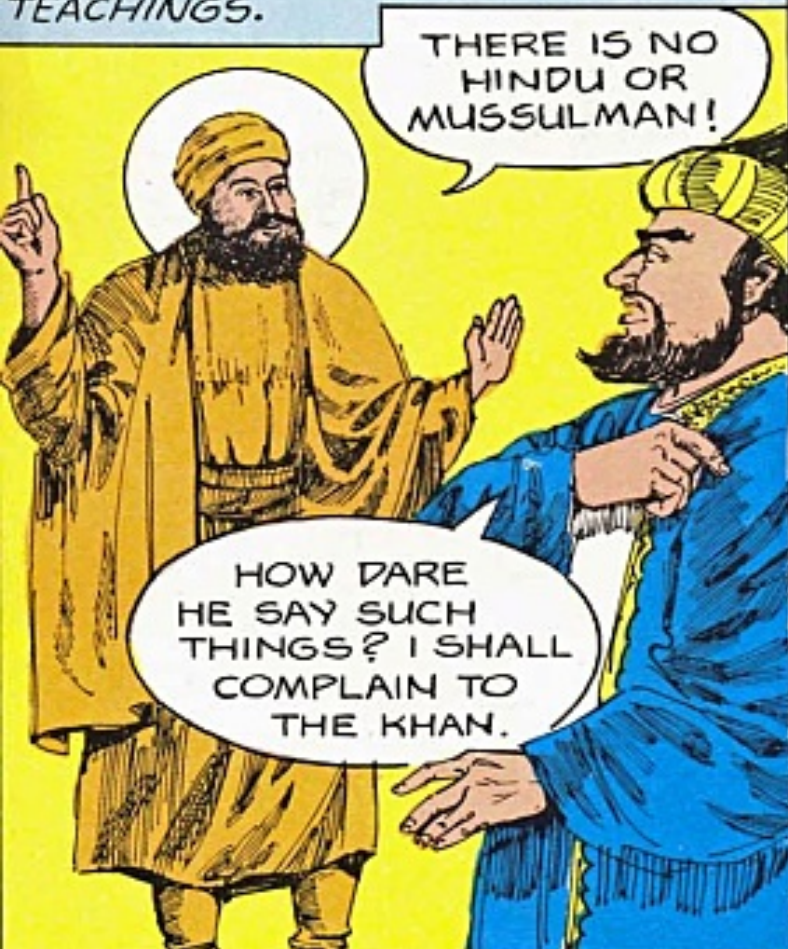


GURU NANAK TOLD HIS TALE.



I HAVE RECEIVED A DIVINE  
COMMAND TO GO  
OUT INTO THE  
WORLD AND TEACH  
MEN THE PATH  
OF LOVE AND  
TOLERANCE.

AND GURU NANAK BEGAN HIS  
TEACHINGS.



THERE IS NO  
HINDU OR  
MUSSULMAN!

HOW DARE  
HE SAY SUCH  
THINGS? I SHALL  
COMPLAIN TO  
THE KHAN.

WHEN THE KHAN HEARD THE  
COMPLAINT HE SENT FOR  
GURU NANAK.



ARE YOU A  
MUSSULMAN OR  
A HINDU?

NEITHER!  
I AM A MAN  
OF GOD.



THEN COME AND PRAY  
WITH US AT THE  
MOSQUE.

GLADLY!



AT THE MOSQUE THE KAZI LED  
THE PRAYER...

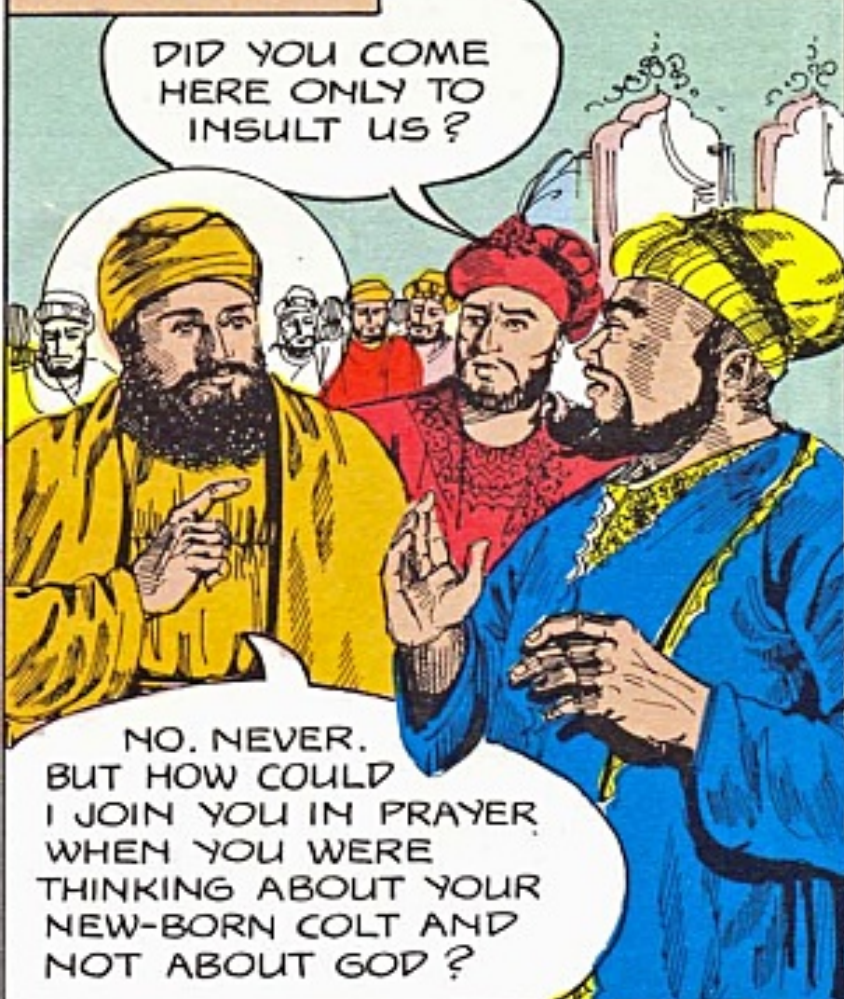
HA! HA!  
HA!



THE KAZI, AND ALL THE OTHERS  
WERE ANGRY.

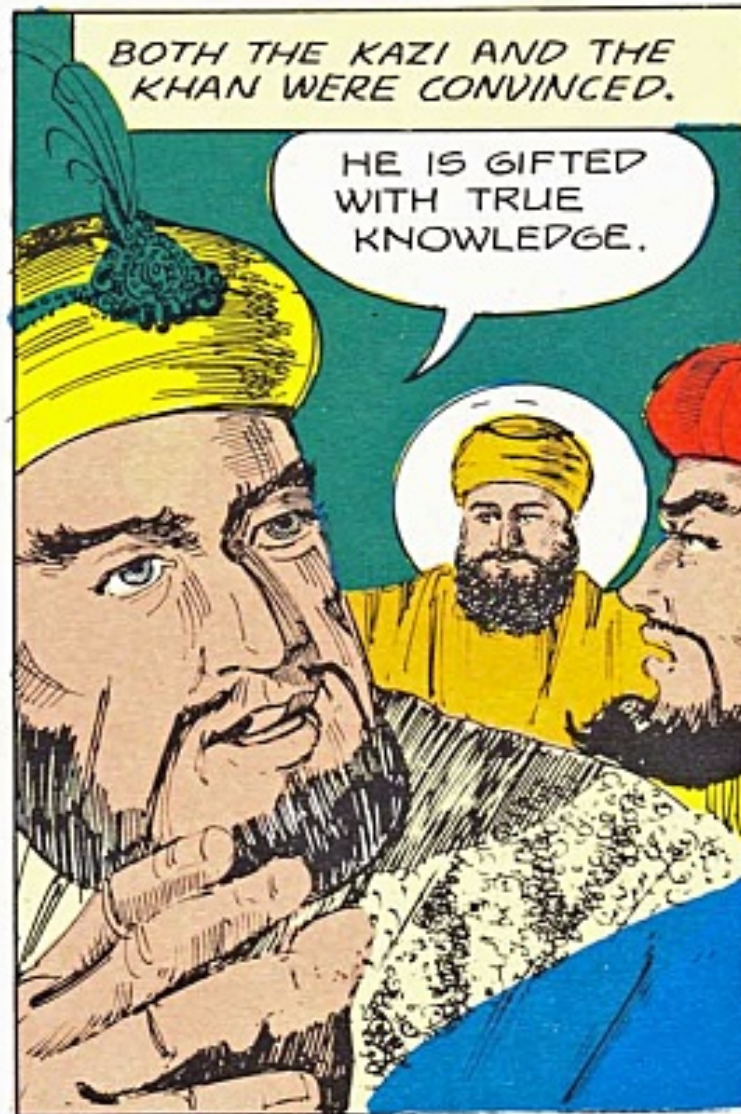
DID YOU COME  
HERE ONLY TO  
INSULT US?

NO. NEVER.  
BUT HOW COULD  
I JOIN YOU IN PRAYER,  
WHEN YOU WERE  
THINKING ABOUT YOUR  
NEW-BORN COLT AND  
NOT ABOUT GOD?



BOTH THE KAZI AND THE  
KHAN WERE CONVINCED.

HE IS GIFTED  
WITH TRUE  
KNOWLEDGE.





SOON AFTER THIS—

MARDANA, I CAN NO LONGER DELAY MY WORK. I MUST LEAVE HOME TO SHOW MEN THE PATH OF LOVE AND SERVICE.

MASTER, I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU.



WHEN GURU NANAK BROKE THE NEWS TO HIS PARENTS—

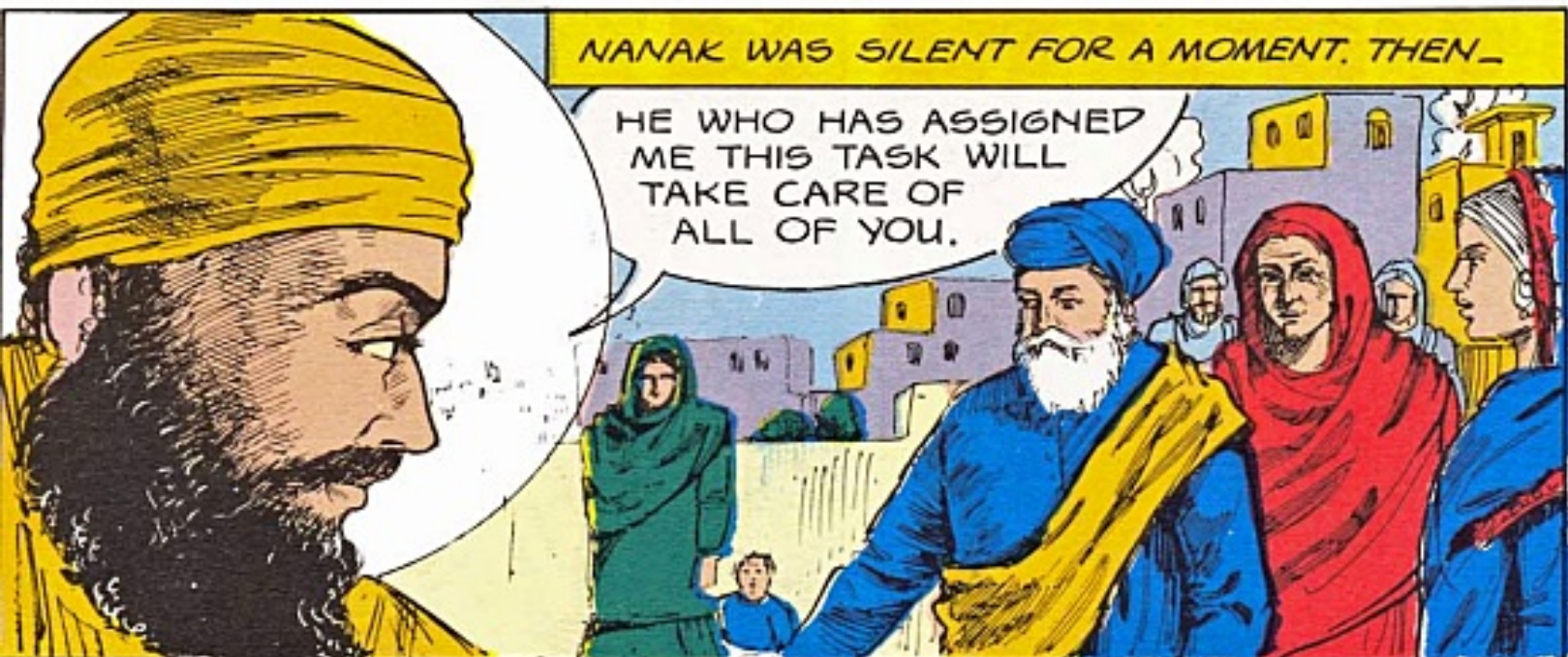
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR DUTY TO YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN?

YOU'RE OUR ONLY SON. IF YOU GO, WHO WILL COMFORT US IN OUR OLD AGE?



NANAK WAS SILENT FOR A MOMENT. THEN—

HE WHO HAS ASSIGNED ME THIS TASK WILL TAKE CARE OF ALL OF YOU.





HIS PARENTS WERE ALMOST CONVINCED, BUT NOT NANKI AND SULAKHNI.

IF YOU GO AWAY WHO WILL CONSOLE SULAKHNI, THE BOYS AND ME, IN TIMES OF TROUBLE?

I SHALL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU IN SPIRIT. IF EVER YOU NEED ME I WILL COME TO YOU.

THEN TAKING LEAVE OF HIS FAMILY...



...HE WALKED WITH MARDANA FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE TILL THEY REACHED SAIDPUR.

A HUT. LET'S GO THERE, MASTER.

THE HUT BELONGED TO A POOR CARPENTER CALLED LALO.

MAY WE REST HERE FOR A WHILE?

MASTER, ENTER AND GRACE MY HUMBLE HUT.





IN A SHORT TIME THE GURU'S STAY AT LALO'S HUT BECAME THE TALK OF THE TOWN.

THEY SAY THAT THE MASTER PREFERRED LALO'S HUMBLE HUT TO THE MANSIONS OF THE RICH MEN OF THE TOWN.

AND LALO BELONGS TO A LOWER CASTE THAN THE MASTER.

PEOPLE GATHERED AROUND GURU NANAK AND MARDANA TO HEAR THEM SPEAK AND SING.

REMEMBER GOD AND BE HONEST AND TRUTHFUL.

MALIK BHAGO, THE RICH ADMINISTRATOR OF SAIDPUR INVITED THE GURU TO HIS MANSION.

THE MASTER REFUSES TO COME.

THEN USE FORCE. BUT BRING HIM!

WHEN GURU NANAK WAS BROUGHT—

HOLY SIR, WHY DID YOU REFUSE MY HOSPITALITY?

GET ME SOME SWEETS FROM YOUR TABLE. I'LL EXPLAIN.



GURU NANAK TOOK OUT A DRY CRUST OF BREAD, WHICH HE HAD BROUGHT FROM LALO'S HOUSE AND THE SWEETS FROM...

LALO'S BREAD WAS EARNED BY HARD WORK YOUR SWEETS WERE BOUGHT OUT OF THE TOIL AND SWEAT OF THE POOR.

...BHAGO'S TABLE AND SQUEEZED BOTH. DROPS OF MILK FELL FROM THE BREAD AND DROPS OF BLOOD FROM THE SWEETS.

BHAGO WAS HUMBLLED. HE BECAME CONTRITE.

HOLY SIR, I SHALL GIVE MY ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH BACK TO THE POOR AND NEEDY. I SHALL SPEND THE REST OF MY DAYS SERVING THEM.

GURU NANAK AND MARDANA CONTINUED THEIR JOURNEY TILL THEY REACHED HARDWAR. THERE—

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WE ARE THROWING WATER TOWARDS THE SUN FOR THE SOULS OF OUR ANCESTORS.



GURU NANAK DID NOT SAY A WORD BUT BENT DOWN AND BEGAN THROWING WATER IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



I AM WATERING MY FIELDS IN THE PUNJAB!

HOW FOOLISH! HOW CAN THIS WATER REACH YOUR FIELDS? IF THE WATER YOU SPRINKLE CAN REACH THE SUN WHICH IS MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY, SURELY THIS WATER CAN REACH MY FIELDS WHICH ARE BUT A FEW HUNDRED MILES AWAY!



REALISING THE TRUTH OF HIS STATEMENT, THE PILGRIMS RETURNED HOME, WISER MEN.

DURING HIS WIDE TRAVELS, HE ENLIGHTENED AND REFORMED MANY SOULS. AMONG THEM WERE SAJJAN, THE THUG; KAUDA, THE CANNIBAL; AND NURSHAH.





THEN GURU NANAK  
TURNED NORTH-  
WEST TOWARDS  
THE MUSLIM  
COUNTRIES.  
WHEN THEY  
REACHED  
MECCA—



SUDDENLY AN IRATE  
VOICE AWOKE NANAK.



TO ME THE WHOLE  
WORLD IS THE  
HOUSE OF GOD.  
NOW TURN MY  
FEET TO WHERE  
GOD IS NOT!





FROM MECCA GURU NANAK AND MARDANA VISITED BAGHDAD, TURKEY AND AFGHANISTAN AND THEN RETURNED TO INDIA, IN 1521.



BUT ALAS A SCENE OF DESTRUCTION MET THEM.



JUST THEN A FEW MUGHAL SOLDIERS MARCHED UP.

ROUND THEM UP, THE INFIDELS!



THUS GURU NANAK AND MARDANA WERE TAKEN PRISONERS.

THEY WERE THROWN INTO A CELL WHERE A NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN WERE MADE TO GRIND CORN ON HEAVY STONES.





WHEN GURU NANAK SAW THE PLIGHT OF THE PRISONERS, HE WAS OVERCOME BY COMPASSION, AND BROKE OUT INTO A SAD SONG.

LORD! DO YOU HAVE NO PITY FOR THESE UNFORTUNATE ONES?



BABAR HEARD THE SONG AND WAS DEEPLY MOVED.

THE HAUNTING VOICE CUTS THROUGH MY HEART. WHO IS THE SINGER? BRING HIM TO ME!



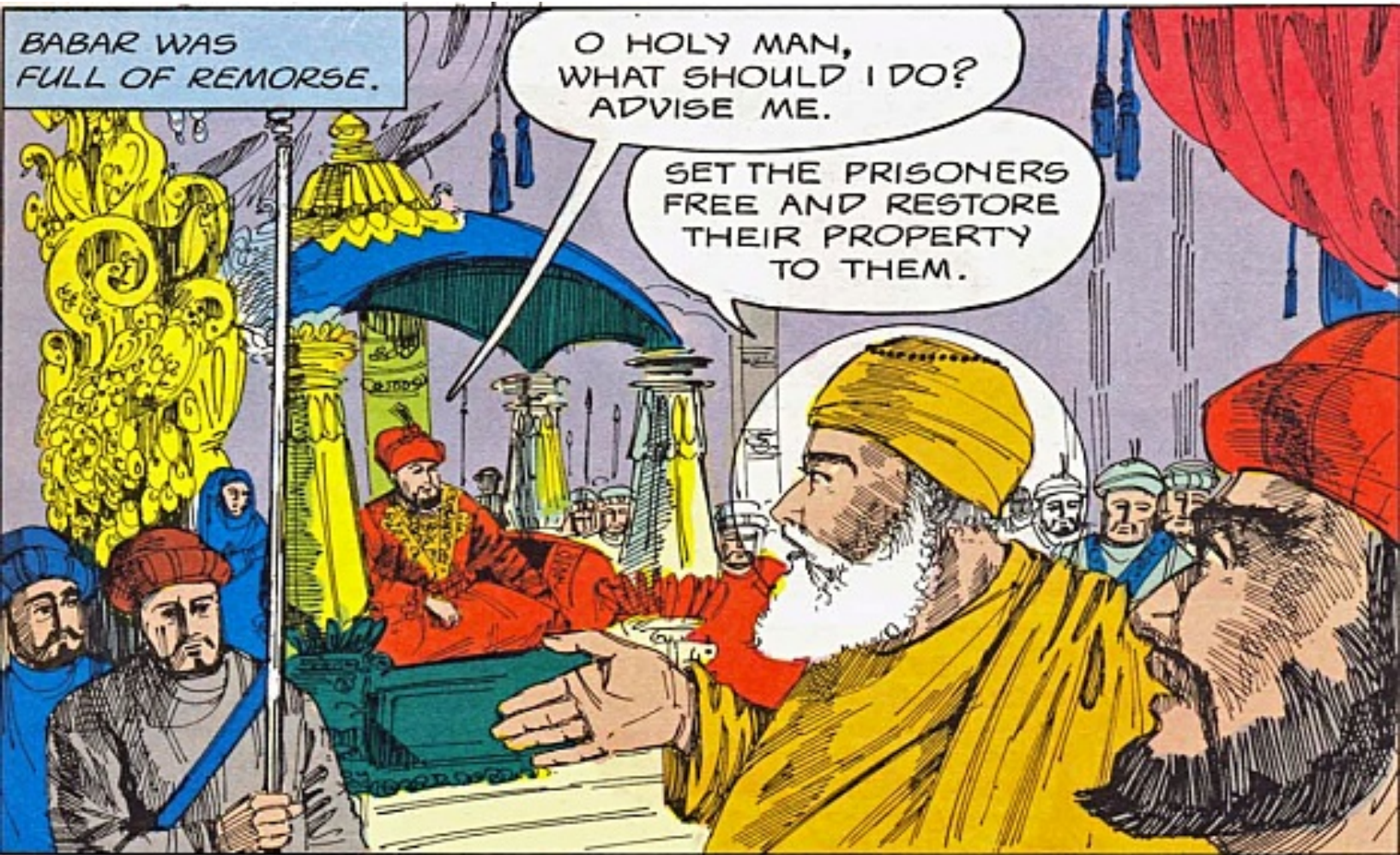
GURU NANAK WAS BROUGHT BEFORE BABAR.

WHAT MADE YOU SING THAT SONG?



I WAS CALLING ON GOD TO WITNESS THE INJUSTICES METED OUT TO HIS CHILDREN.





BABAR WAS  
FULL OF REMORSE.

O HOLY MAN,  
WHAT SHOULD I DO?  
ADVISE ME.

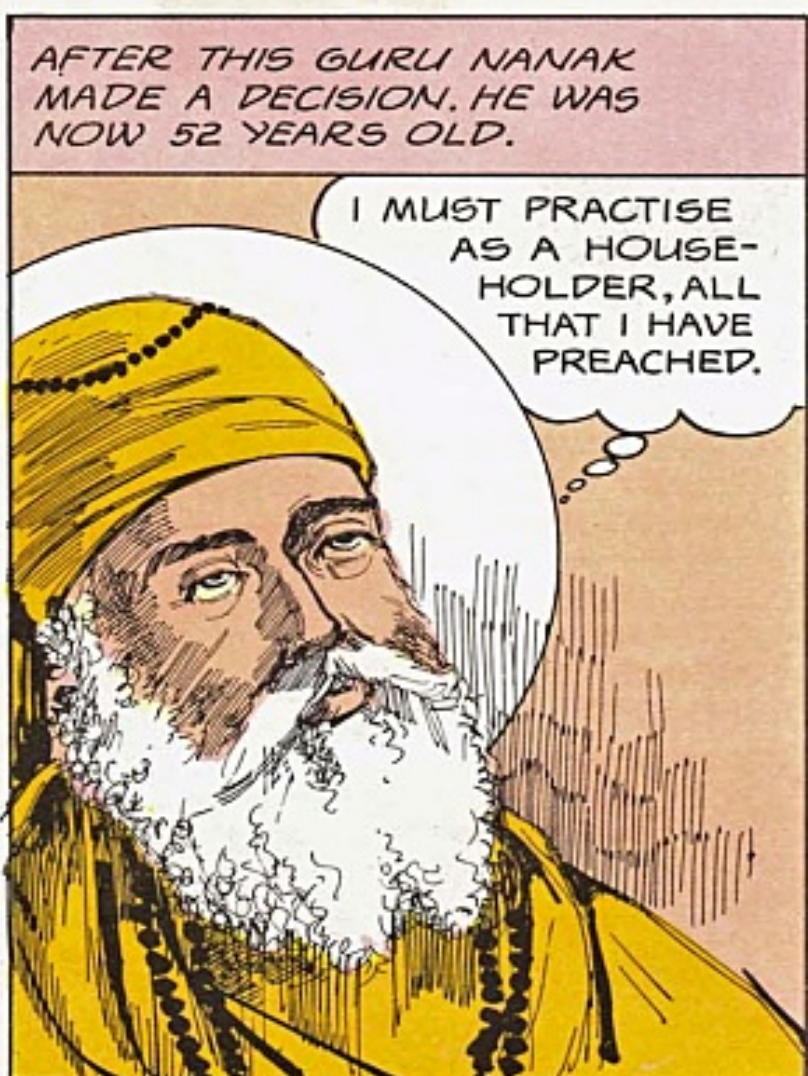
SET THE PRISONERS  
FREE AND RESTORE  
THEIR PROPERTY  
TO THEM.



BABAR IMMEDIATELY OBEYED  
THE COMMAND.

HOLY MAN, I'VE  
DONE AS YOU BADE  
ME. PRAY BLESS ME  
THAT I BECOME THE  
EMPEROR OF INDIA.

YOUR WISH WILL BE  
FULFILLED. BUT REMEMBER  
TO BE A JUST RULER  
WHOSE SOLE INTEREST  
IS THE HAPPINESS OF  
HIS PEOPLE.



AFTER THIS GURU NANAK  
MADE A DECISION. HE WAS  
NOW 52 YEARS OLD.

I MUST PRACTISE  
AS A HOUSE-  
HOLDER, ALL  
THAT I HAVE  
PREACHED.



SO HE CAST OFF HIS ORANGE ROBES AND SETTLED DOWN TO A FARMER'S LIFE AT KARTARPUR.



HE ESTABLISHED A COMMUNITY KITCHEN OR 'LANGAR' WHERE ALL WERE WELCOME.



IN THE EVENINGS ALL WOULD COLLECT AROUND GURU NANAK AND HIS ASSOCIATES.

COME, MY SONS.  
LET'S BEGIN  
SINGING THE  
PRAISES OF GOD.



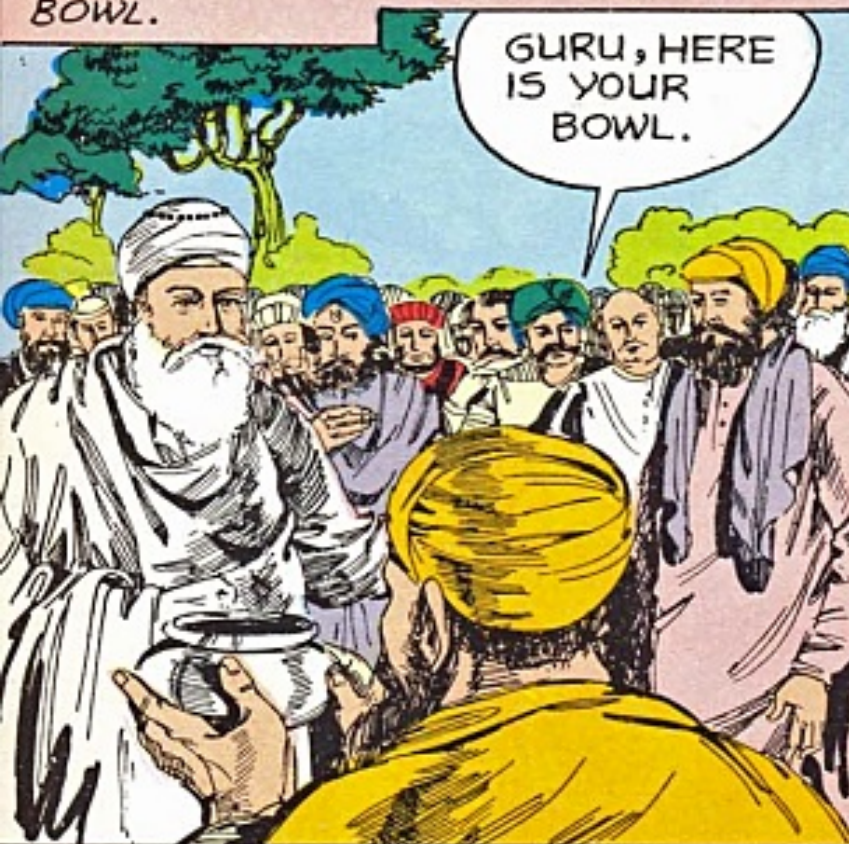
ONE DAY, GURU NANAK WANTED TO TEST HIS DISCIPLES TO APPOINT A SUCCESSOR.

MY BOWL HAS  
FALLEN INTO  
THE SEWER.





WITHOUT HESITATING, LEHNA, ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES, BROUGHT OUT THE BOWL.



GURU, HERE IS YOUR BOWL.

GURU NANAK MADE HIS DECISION.



NEITHER OF MY SONS CAN BECOME GURU AFTER ME. LEHNA, MY MOST FAITHFUL DISCIPLE, SHALL BE MY SUCCESSOR.

ONE EVENING...



I APPOINT LEHNA AS MY SUCCESSOR. HE WILL BE CALLED GURU ANGAD.

THE CEREMONY TOOK PLACE.





THEN ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1539 GURU NANAK FELL DEEP INTO MEDITATION.



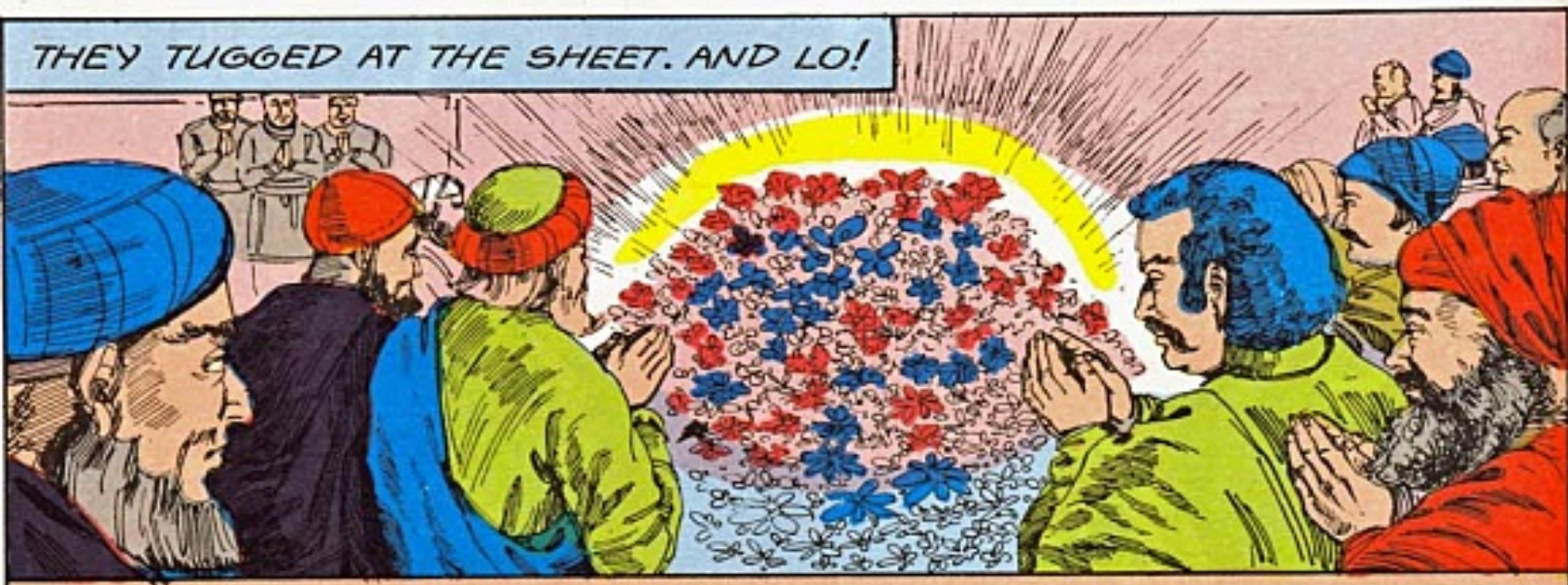
I HAVE COMPLETED MY LIFE'S WORK. I MAY NOW GIVE UP MY BODY.

AND GURU NANAK WAS NO MORE. THE MUSLIMS AND HINDUS QUARRELLED OVER THE DISPOSAL OF HIS BODY.



HE SHALL BE BURIED.

NO. WE SHALL CREMATE HIM.



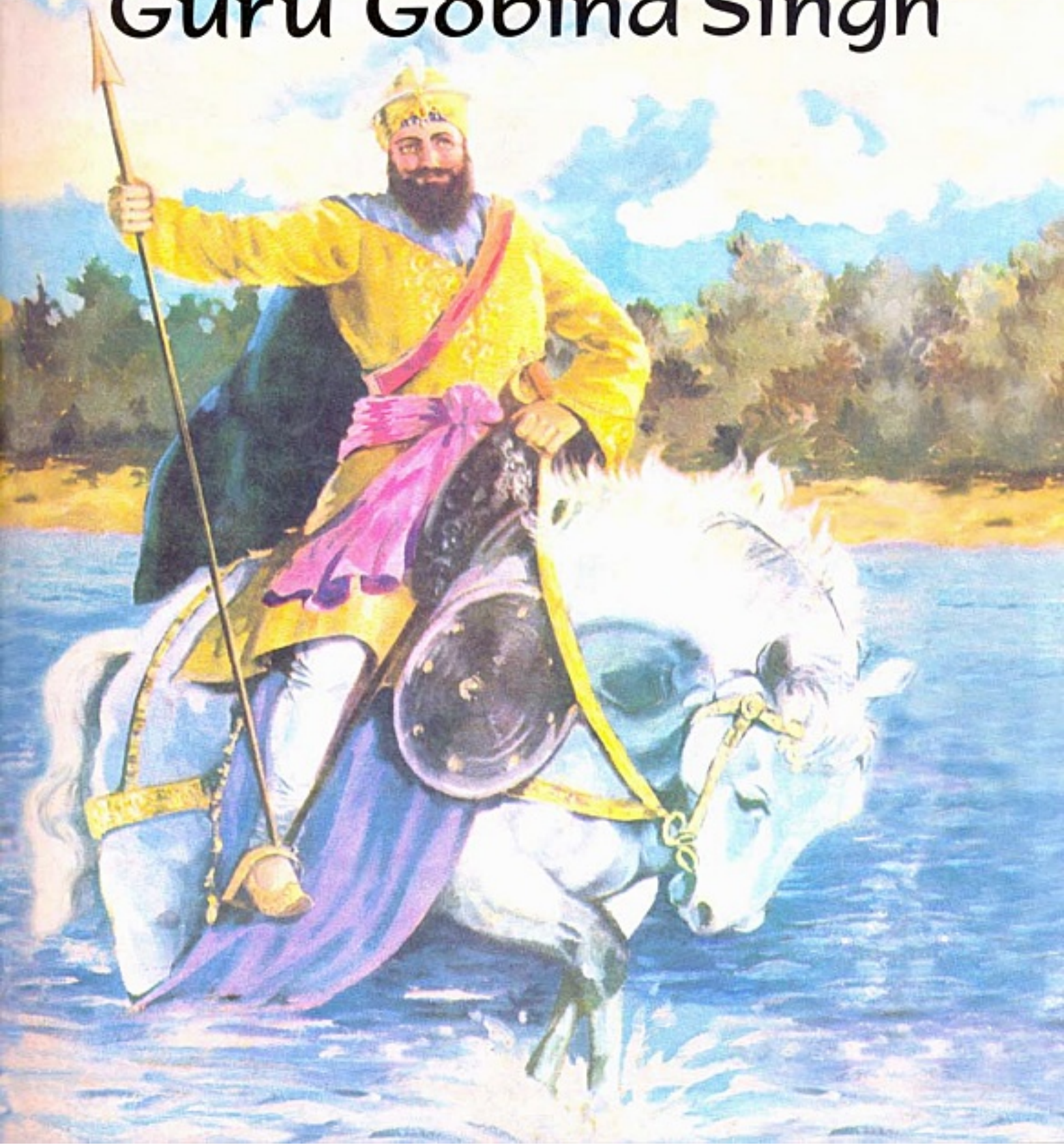
THEY TUGGED AT THE SHEET. AND LO!

THAT WAS GURU NANAK'S LAST MESSAGE TO THOSE OF HIS FOLLOWERS WHO HAD NOT YET ASSIMILATED HIS BASIC TEACHINGS.





# Guru Gobind Singh







## Illustrated Classics From India

### Guru Gobind Singh

The Mughal Empire founded in the early 16th century began to disintegrate towards the later years of the 17th century. Two people who hastened its end were Shivaji along with his Marathas in the Deccan and Guru Gobind Singh and the Sikhs in northern India.

Guru Gobind Singh's short career was not marked by any spectacular achievement on the battlefield. His chief contribution was to convert a passive and fatalist community of Punjabi Sikhs into a militant, aggressive and determined brotherhood of the Khalsa. He gave Sikhism its five sacred symbols, including the unshorn hair and beard, which made the Sikh members of one casteless family – the Singhs. He was the chief proponent of the Dharmayuddha philosophy – war for the sake of righteousness – to which he committed his four sons and his following.

Guru Gobind Singh was the last of the ten Gurus and one of the greatest poets of the Punjabi language.

Script: Mala Dayal (nee Singh)      Illustrations: Ram Waeerkar



# GURU GOBIND SINGH



IN 1675 IN A SMALL TOWN,  
ANNANDPUR, ON THE FOOT-  
HILLS OF THE HIMALAYAS,  
A NINE-YEAR OLD BOY,  
GOBIND RAI, WAS PLAY-  
ING WITH HIS FRIENDS.



SUDDENLY HIS OLD UNCLE CAME  
RUNNING UP.

GOBIND, COME HERE! YOUR  
MOTHER IS CALLING YOU.  
WE HAVE SOME BAD  
NEWS FOR YOU.



YOUR FATHER  
IS DEAD.

HE DIED A  
HERO'S DEATH  
FOR HIS  
PEOPLE.



HE WAS CAPTURED  
BY THE MUGHAL  
TROOPS AND BROUGHT  
BEFORE EMPEROR  
AURANGZEB.





TEGH BAHADUR, YOU ARE NOW AT MY MERCY! IF YOU ARE A SAINT AS PEOPLE SAY, THEN PERFORM SOME MIRACLE OR ELSE RENOUNCE YOUR FAITH.



I WILL TIE A CHARM AROUND MY NECK AND YOUR SWORD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HARM ME!



THE VICEROY ORDERED THAT TEGH BAHADUR'S HEAD SHOULD BE CUT OFF.



TEGH BAHADUR DIED BUT WHEN THEY OPENED THE CHARM—





YOU ARE NOW THE LEADER  
OF THE SIKHS! YOU ARE  
THEIR TENTH GURU.



SO THE DAYS PASSED AND GURU  
GOBIND LEARNED SANSKRIT,  
PERSIAN, BRAJ  
AND PUNJABI.



COME ON!  
IT'S TIME  
TO GO  
HUNT-  
ING!



EARLY IN 1677 GURU GOBIND WAS  
MARRIED TO JITTO.





GURU GOBIND'S FAME SPREAD. SOON SIKHS BEGAN COMING TO HIM WITH OFFERINGS.

LET THOSE WHO  
COME TO ME BRING  
GIFTS OF ARMS AND  
HORSES.



I SHALL DRIVE THE TURKS  
AND MUGHALS OUT OF OUR  
MOTHERLAND. OUR WAR-  
CRY WILL BE "SAT SRI AKAL"—  
GOD IS TRUTH. WHO WILL  
JOIN ME IN  
THE DHARMA-  
YUDDHA?



THE MUGHALS  
ARE THE  
MIGHTIEST  
POWER IN  
ASIA. HOW CAN  
WE FIGHT  
AGAINST  
THEM?

I WILL TEACH  
THE SPARROW  
TO HUNT  
THE HAWK.

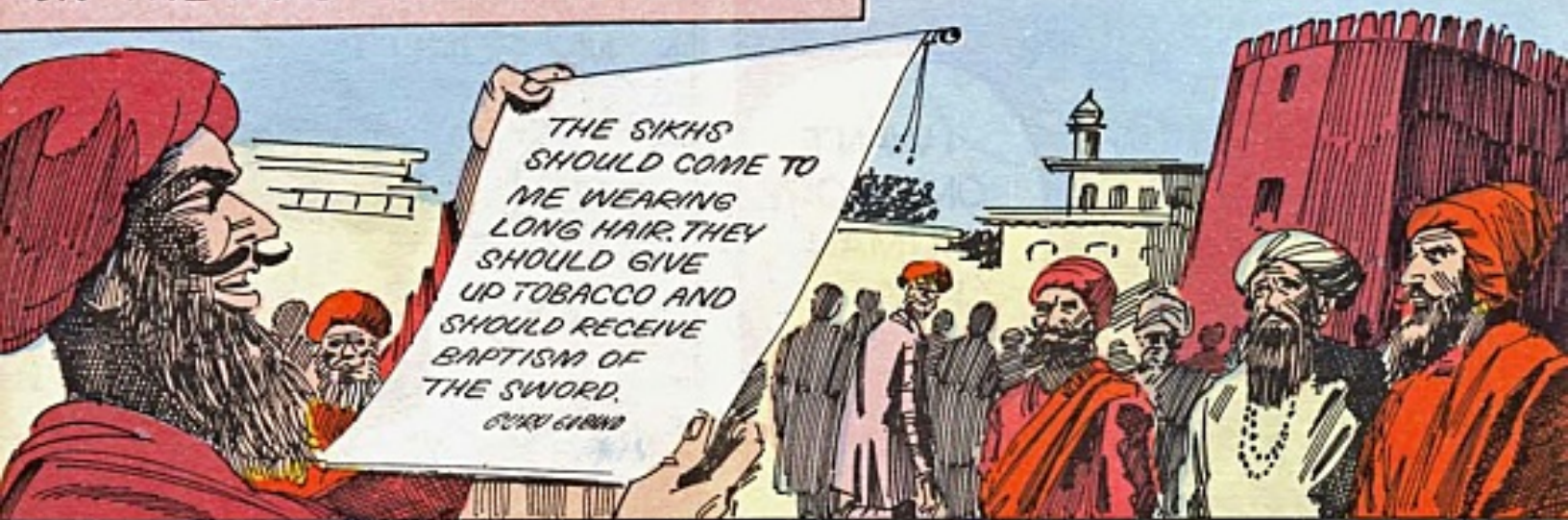








EARLY IN 1699 GURU GOBIND ASKED HIS SIKHS TO ASSEMBLE ON THE FIRST DAY OF BAISAHHI.



ON THAT DAY A  
LARGE NUMBER  
ASSEMBLED.



THERE WAS A STUNNED  
SILENCE, THEN A YOUNG  
MAN GOT UP.



THEN  
COME WITH  
ME!





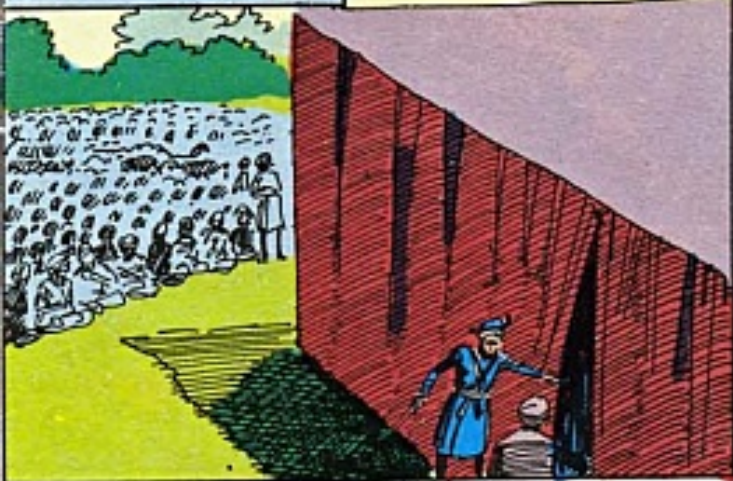
WHEN GURU GOBIND REAPPEARED,  
HIS SWORD WAS  
STAINED RED  
WITH BLOOD.



MY HEAD IS  
FOR YOU,  
MY GURU



GURU GOBIND TOOK THE  
SECOND YOUNG MAN INTO  
THE TENT.



WHEN HE RE-  
APPEARED HE  
WAS ALONE  
AND HIS SWORD  
WAS FRESHLY  
STAINED WITH  
BLOOD.



THE SAME HAPPENED WITH THREE OTHER YOUNG MEN WHO  
VOLUNTEERED THEIR LIVES FOR GURU GOBIND.





AFTER THE FIFTH MAN HAD DISAPPEARED INTO THE TENT AND GURU GOBIND HAD RE-APPEARED WITH HIS SWORD BLOOD-STAINED, HE AGAIN ENTERED THE TENT AND THEN RE-EMERGED.

THESE ARE MY BELOVED FIVE -MY PANJ PAYARE. THEIR FAITH HAS LAID THE FOUNDATION OF A NEW COMMUNITY - THE KHALSA OR THE PURE.



THEY ARE ALL ALIVE! BUT HOW WAS HIS SWORD DRIPPING WITH BLOOD?

HE WAS JUST TESTING US.



THEN GURU GOBIND ASKED FOR AN IRON VESSEL WHICH HE FILLED WITH WATER. TO THIS HE ADDED SUGAR WHICH HE STIRRED IN WITH A DOUBLE-EDGED DAGGER.



THE FIVE DISCIPLES WERE GIVEN THIS AMRIT.

HENCEFORTH YOU SHALL ALL BE KNOWN AS SINGHS AND YOU WILL GROW YOUR HAIR AND BEARD...

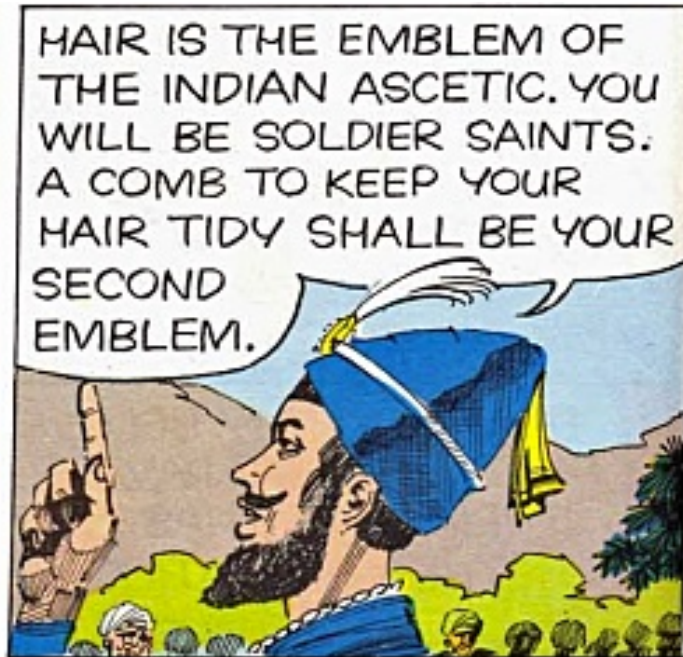




WHY MUST WE  
GROW OUR  
HAIR AND  
BEARD?



HAIR IS THE EMBLEM OF  
THE INDIAN ASCETIC. YOU  
WILL BE SOLDIER SAINTS.  
A COMB TO KEEP YOUR  
HAIR TIDY SHALL BE YOUR  
SECOND  
EMBLEM.



THE KIRPAN IS TO BE  
USED ONLY FOR  
DEFENCE.  
YOU MUST  
ALWAYS BE  
SOLDIERS IN  
SOLDIERS'  
BREECHES.  
THE  
KACCHA.



YOU WILL  
ALSO WEAR A  
KADA \*





HE HAS GIVEN FIVE  
EMBLEMS ALL BEGINNING  
WITH THE LETTER K -  
KESH, KANGHA  
KACCHA, KADA  
AND KIRPAN.

AND  
HE HAS  
GIVEN US  
ONE NAME -  
WE ARE ALL  
SINGHS.



AND REMEMBER  
YOU ARE THE PURE -  
THE KHALSA. NEVER  
RAISE YOUR ARMS  
AGAINST THE WEAK,  
NEVER MOLEST  
A WOMAN.  
REGARD ALL  
HUMAN BEINGS  
AS YOUR  
BROTHERS.



AS YOU HAVE BAPTISED  
US, WE BAPTISE YOU.  
YOU ARE NO LONGER  
GOBIND RAI, BUT  
GOBIND SINGH. THE  
RULES THAT APPLY  
TO US WILL  
APPLY TO YOU.

SO BE IT. THE  
GURU IS OF THE  
KHALSA AS MUCH  
AS THE KHALSA  
IS OF THE  
GURU.

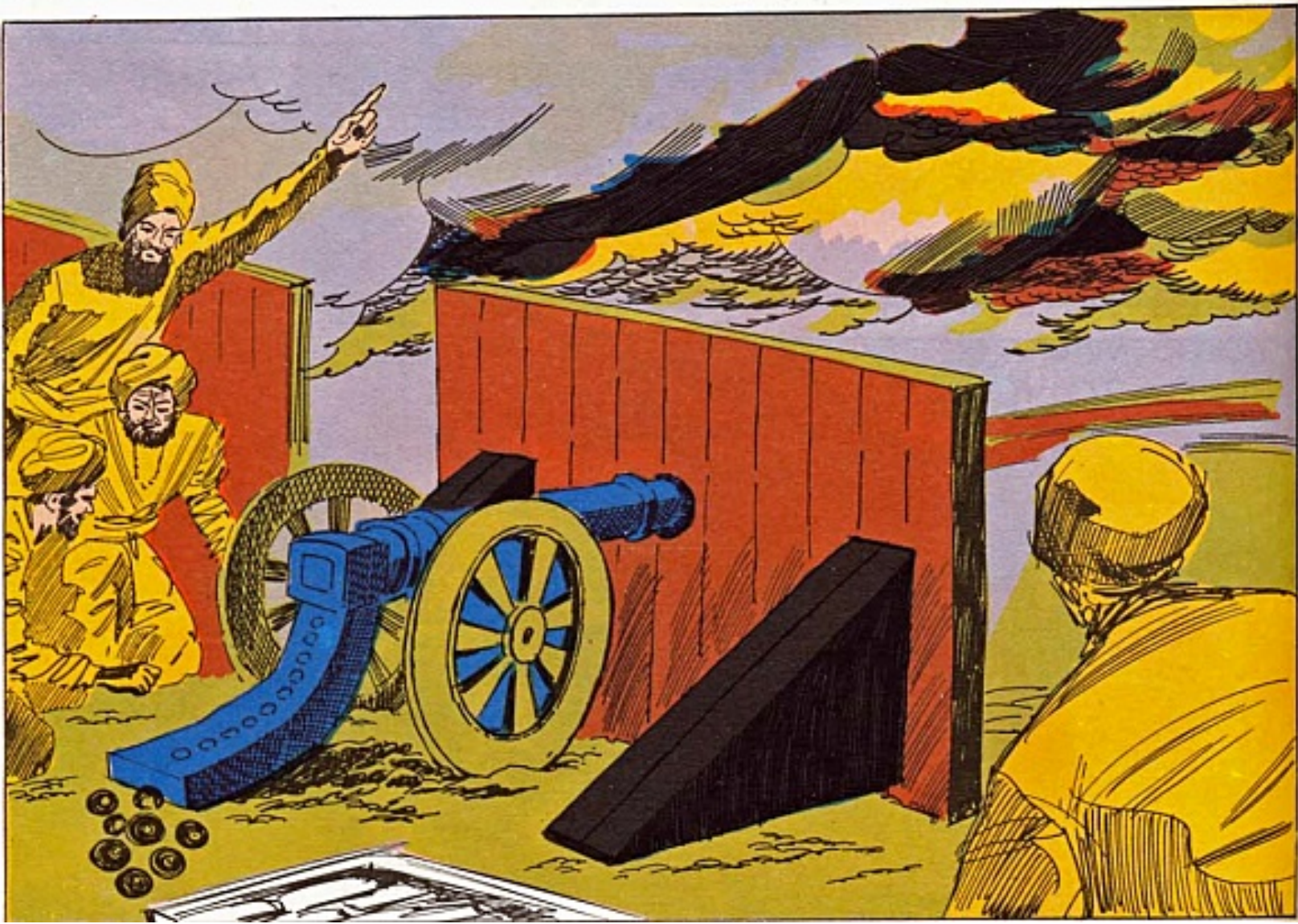
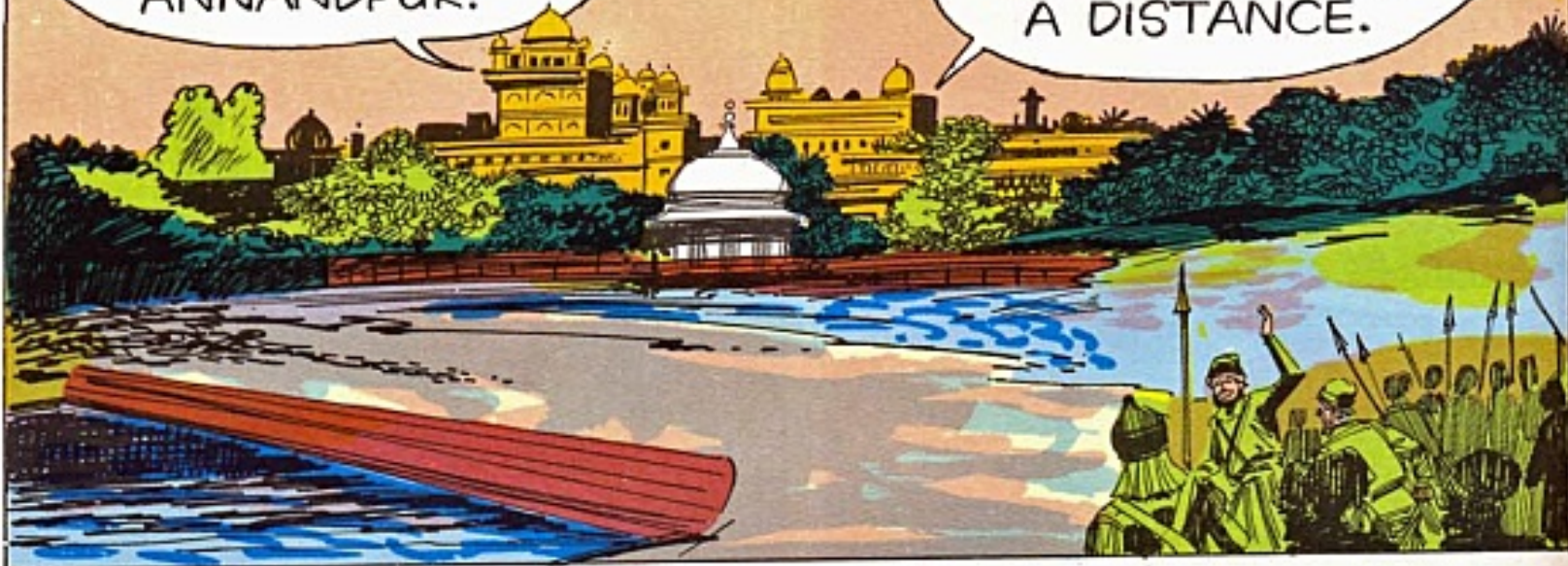




SOME TIME LATER, EMPEROR AURANGZEB ORDERED WAZIR KHAN, HIS GOVERNOR IN THE PUNJAB TO DESTROY THE SIKHS AND BRING GOBIND PRISONER.

THE MUGHALS ARE SURROUNDING ANNANDPUR.

SHUT THE GATES OF THE FORT. KEEP THE ENEMY AT A DISTANCE.





THE SIKHS WILL  
NOT LET OUR MEN  
GET NEAR THE  
WALLS. WHAT SHALL  
WE DO?

WE SHALL PRETEND TO  
ATTACK ANNANDPUR FROM THE  
REAR. MEANWHILE CHARGE THE  
MAIN GATE WITH OUR WAR ELE-  
PHANTS.



THEY ARE  
COMING FROM  
THE OTHER SIDE.  
WHAT SHALL  
WE DO?

LET THEM COME.  
WE SHALL RECKON  
WITH THEM.

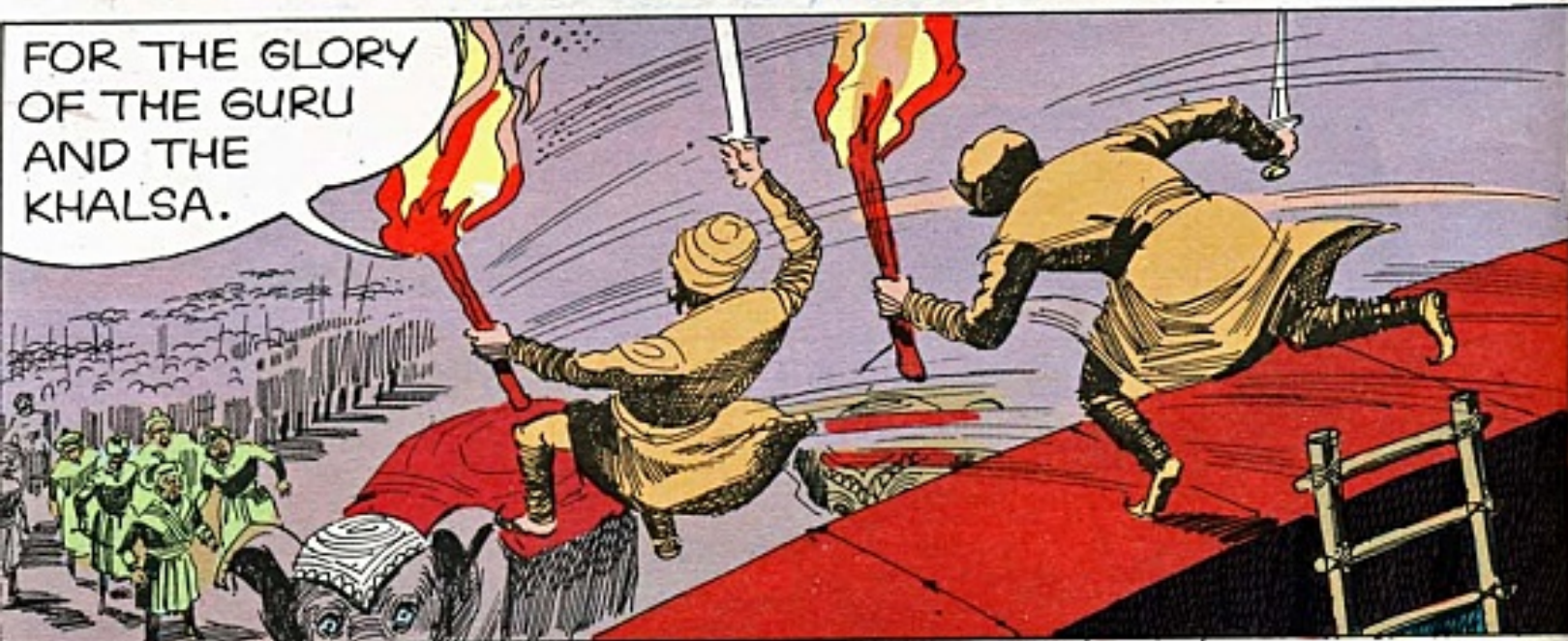






THE GATE  
WILL GIVE  
WAY, THE  
MUGHALS  
WILL ENTER  
OUR CITADEL.

THEN WHAT  
ARE YOU  
WAITING  
FOR?



FOR THE GLORY  
OF THE GURU  
AND THE  
KHALSA.



HOW CAN WE FIGHT  
PEOPLE AS  
BRAVE AS  
THESE?

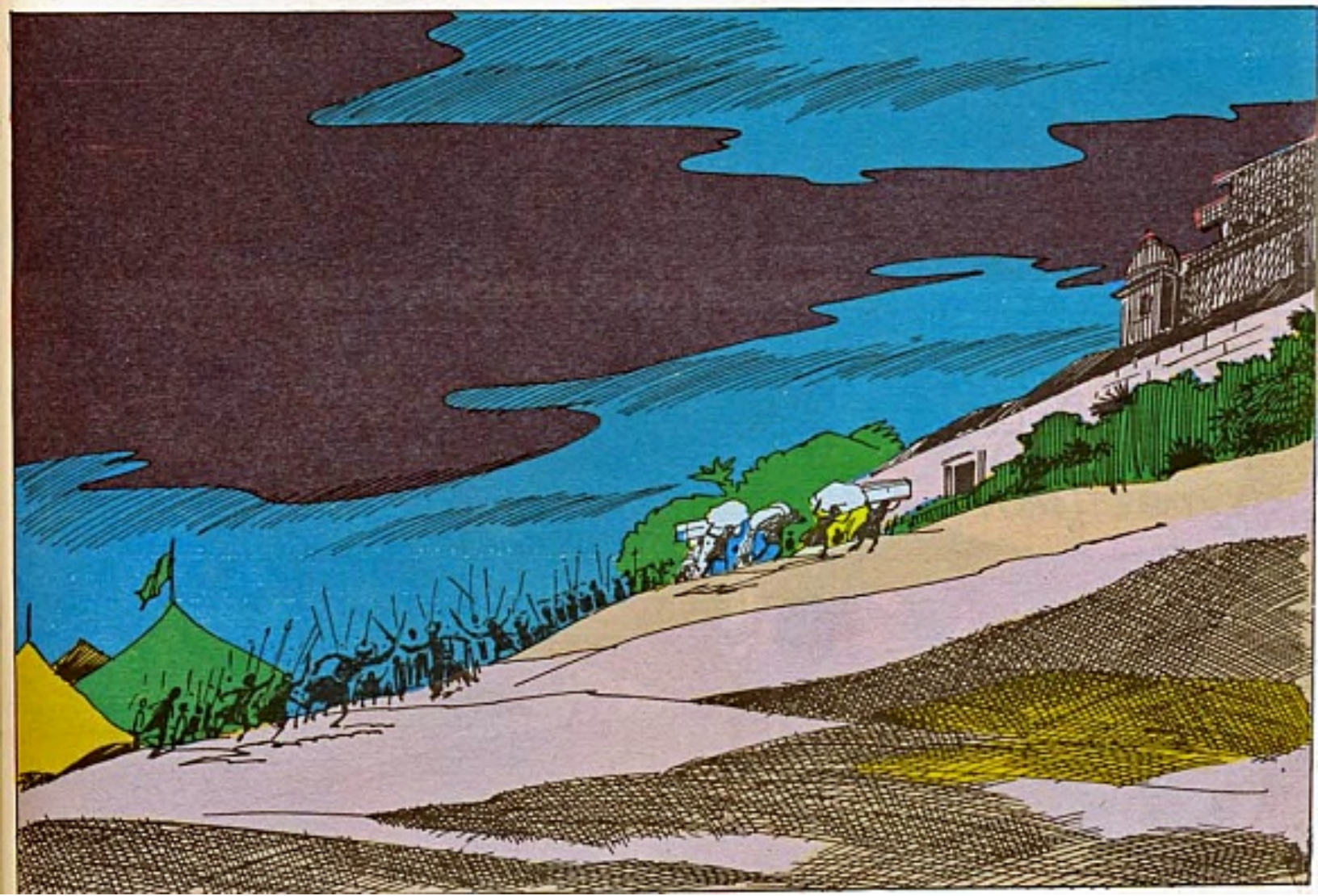
LET  
US WITHDRAW  
TO A SAFE  
DISTANCE AND  
STARVE THEM  
INTO SURREN-  
DERING.





SIRE, THE MUGHALS WON'T FIGHT US BUT WE HAVE FINISHED ALL OUR STOCKS OF FOOD. WE WILL DIE OF HUNGER.

HAVE FAITH! AT NIGHT WHEN THE MUGHALS SLEEP, SEND PARTIES OUT TO GET FOOD. IF YOU ARE AMBUSHED, FIGHT YOUR WAY THROUGH THEM.





THE SIEGE DRAGGED ON FOR SIX LONG MONTHS AND THE EMPEROR WAS FURIOUS. AT LAST ONE OF HIS ABLEST GENERALS, PAINDA KHAN MADE A DECISION.

I WILL CHALLENGE GOBIND TO FIGHT ME SINGLE-HANDED TO SETTLE THE ISSUE. SEND AN ENVOY TO HIM.



WHEN THE MUGHAL ENVOY ARRIVED -

PAINDA KHAN IS THE BEST MARKSMAN IN THE MUGHAL ARMY. DO NOT ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE.

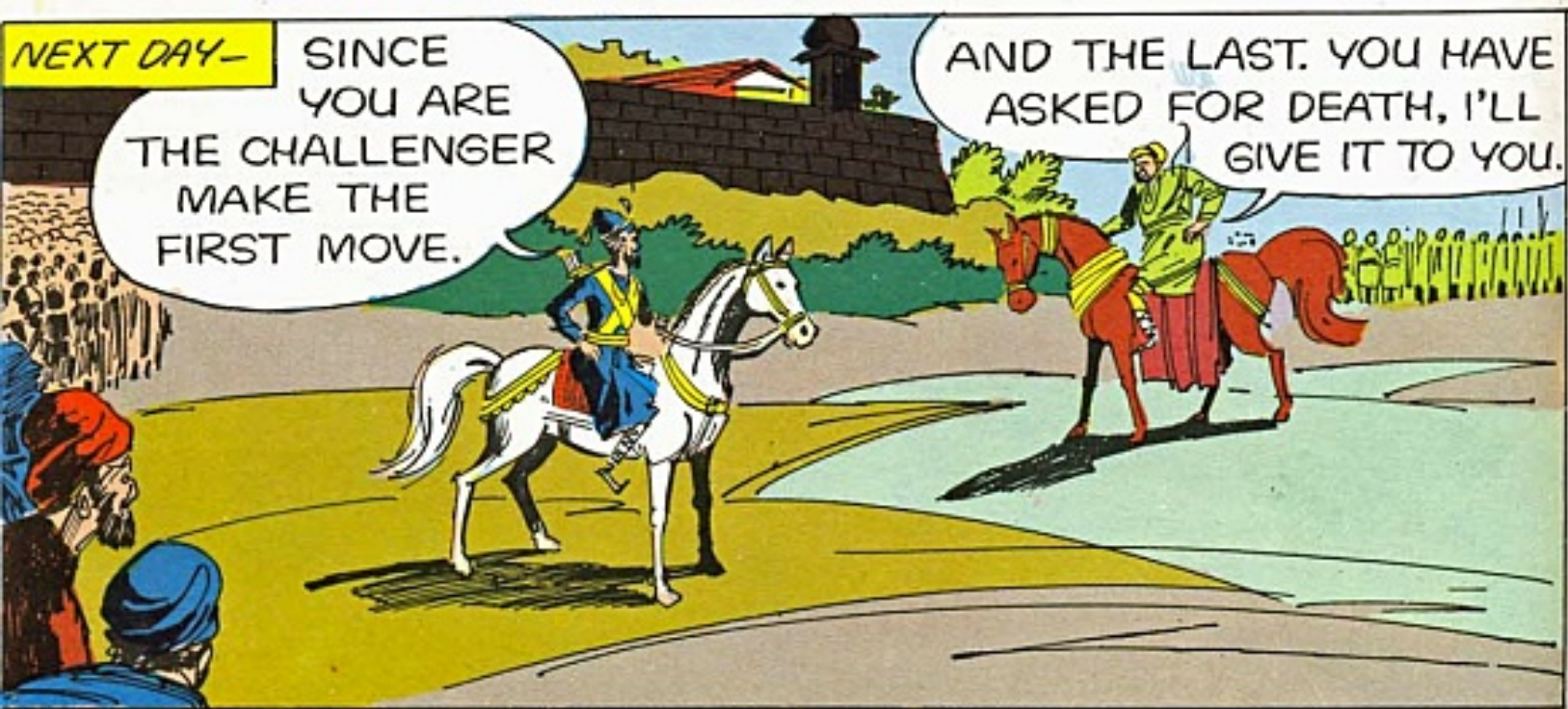
TELL PAINDA KHAN, I'LL AWAIT HIM OUTSIDE THE GATE, TOMORROW MORNING.



NEXT DAY -

SINCE YOU ARE THE CHALLENGER MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

AND THE LAST. YOU HAVE ASKED FOR DEATH, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.









THERE WAS A SHORT INTERLUDE OF PEACE. THEN EMPEROR AURANGZEB ORDERED A FRESH ATTACK ON THE SIKHS.

HOW CAN AN UNTRAINED HANDFUL OF PEASANTS HOLD OUT AGAINST A VAST ARMY OF PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS?

YOUR MAJESTY, WE WILL DEFEAT THE SIKHS!

WE'LL STARVE THEM OUT!



ONE DAY THE SIKHS BROUGHT A MAN NAMED KANHAIYA BEFORE GURU GOBIND SINGH.

I CAUGHT HIM GIVING THE WOUNDED ENEMIES WATER!

YOU TOLD US TO SERVE ALL THOSE IN NEED.



WELL SAID! YOU HAVE TRULY UNDERSTOOD THE WORD OF THE GURUS!

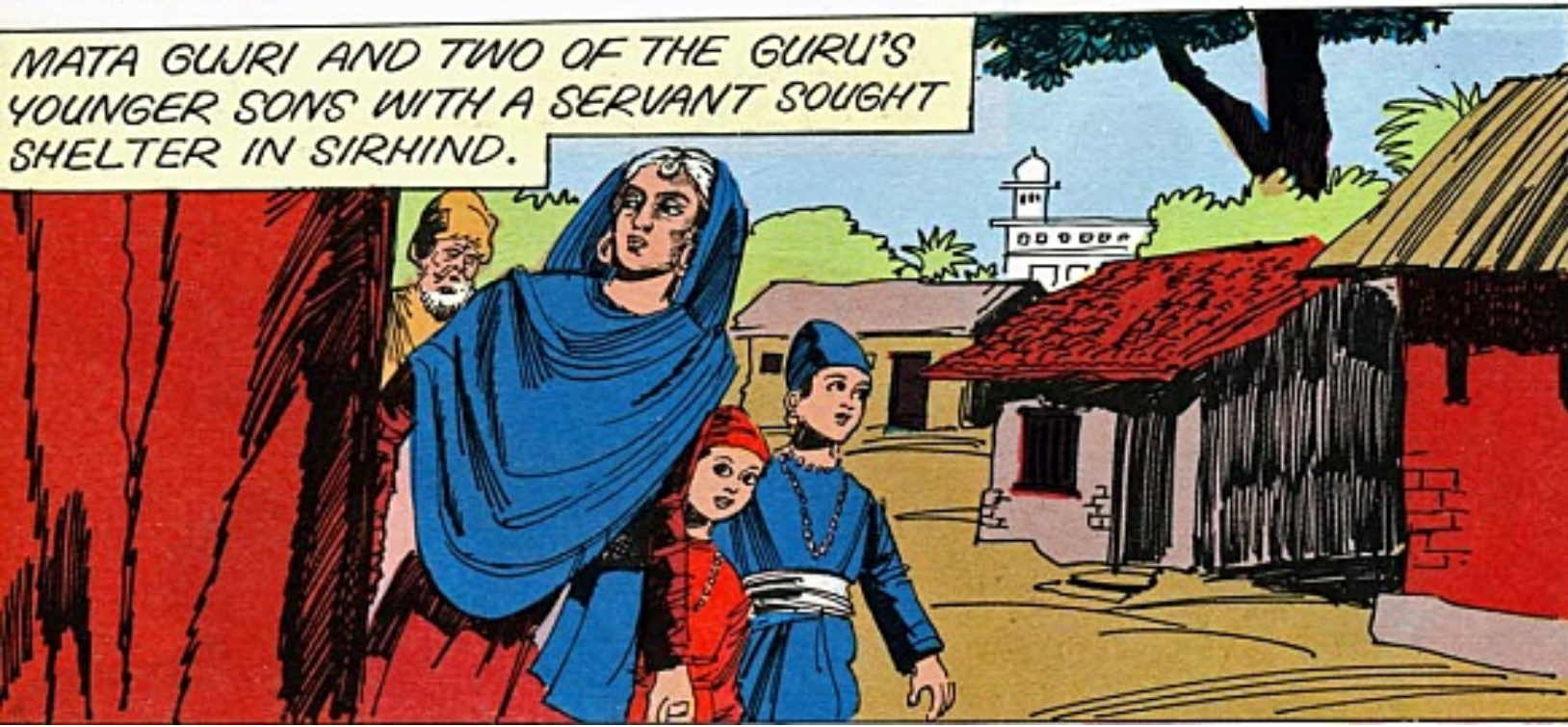




AT LAST THE MUGHAL GOVERNOR DECLARED THAT IF GURU GOBIND GAVE UP ANNANDPUR FOR A WHILE, HE WOULD LEAVE HIM ALONE AND RETURN THE FORTRESS. GURU GOBIND AGREED TO THE PROPOSAL.

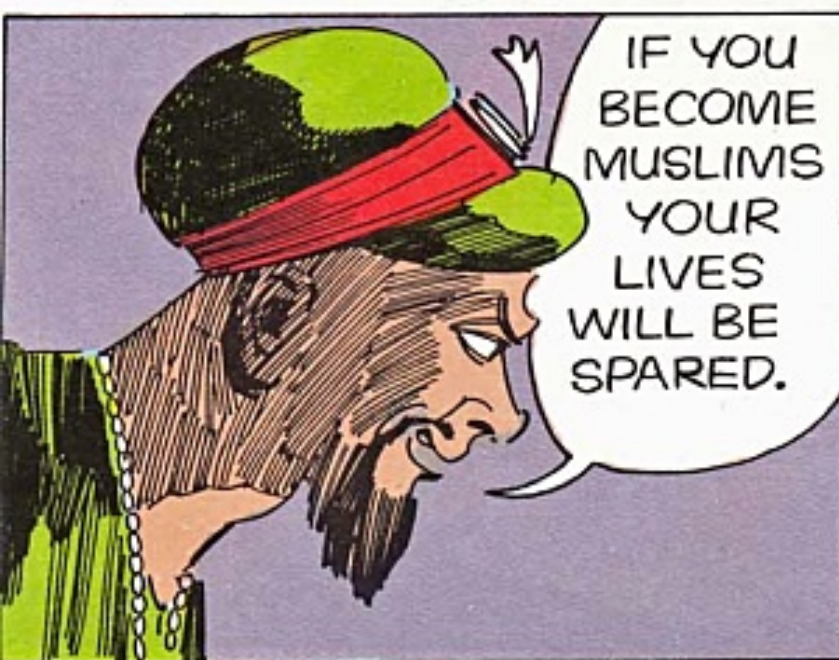


MATA GUJRI AND TWO OF THE GURU'S YOUNGER SONS WITH A SERVANT SOUGHT SHELTER IN SIRHIND.





BUT THEY WERE BETRAYED, CAPTURED BY THE SOLDIERS AND BROUGHT TO THE COURT OF THE GOVERNOR WAZIR KHAN.



IF YOU  
BECOME  
MUSLIMS  
YOUR  
LIVES  
WILL BE  
SPARED.



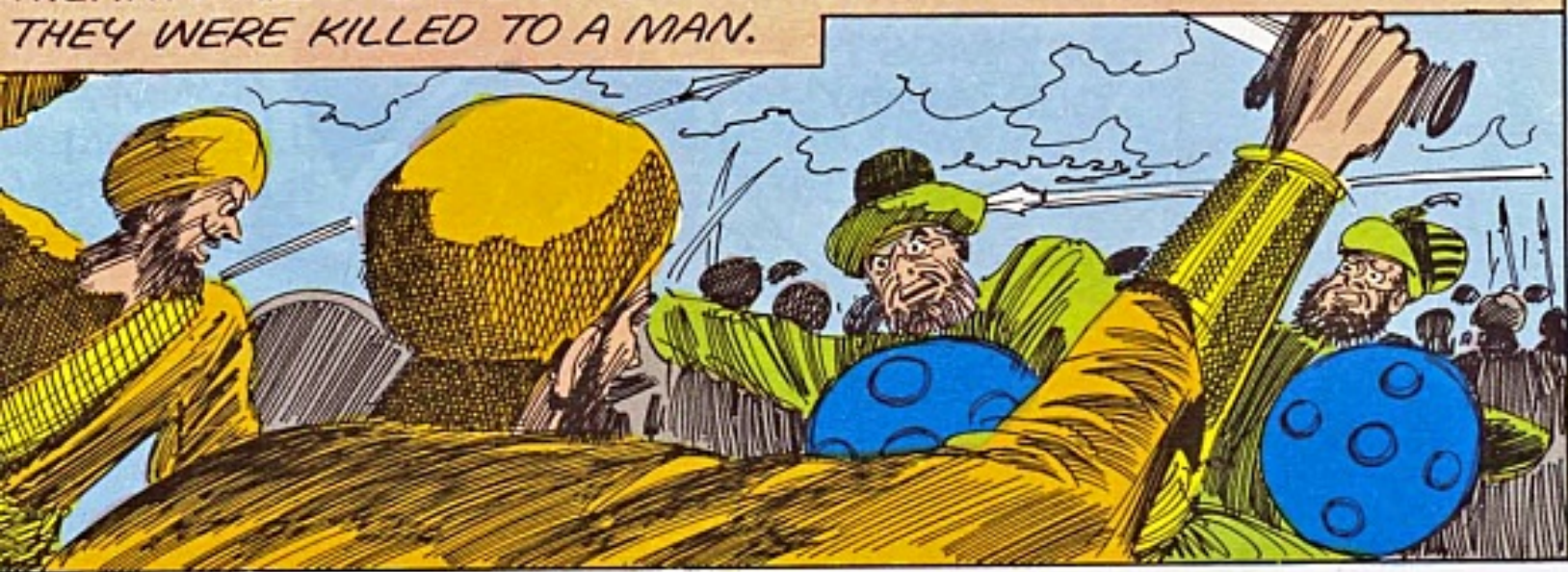
NEVER! WE HAVE  
NOTHING AGAINST  
ISLAM. BUT WE ARE  
SIKHS AND SIKHS  
WE WILL  
REMAIN.



THE BOYS WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH.  
THEY WERE BRICKED ALIVE BETWEEN  
TWO WALLS.



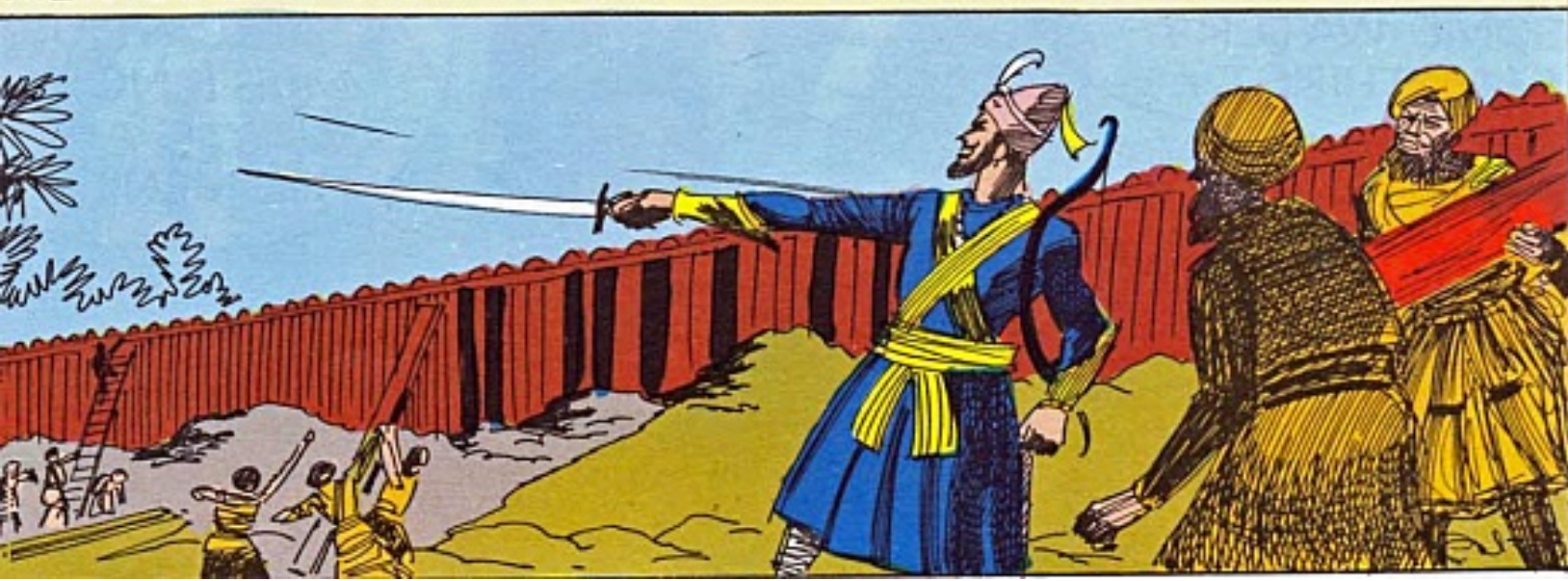
MEANWHILE A BAND OF SIKHS HELD THE PURSUERS TILL THEY WERE KILLED TO A MAN.



THIS REAR-GUARD ACTION GAVE GURU GOBIND SINGH AND A SMALL BAND OF SIKHS TIME TO REACH CHAMKAUR.



AT CHAMKAUR GURU GOBIND SINGH AND HIS BAND OF FORTY MEN BUILT A STOCKADE AND DECIDED TO FIGHT TO A FINISH.



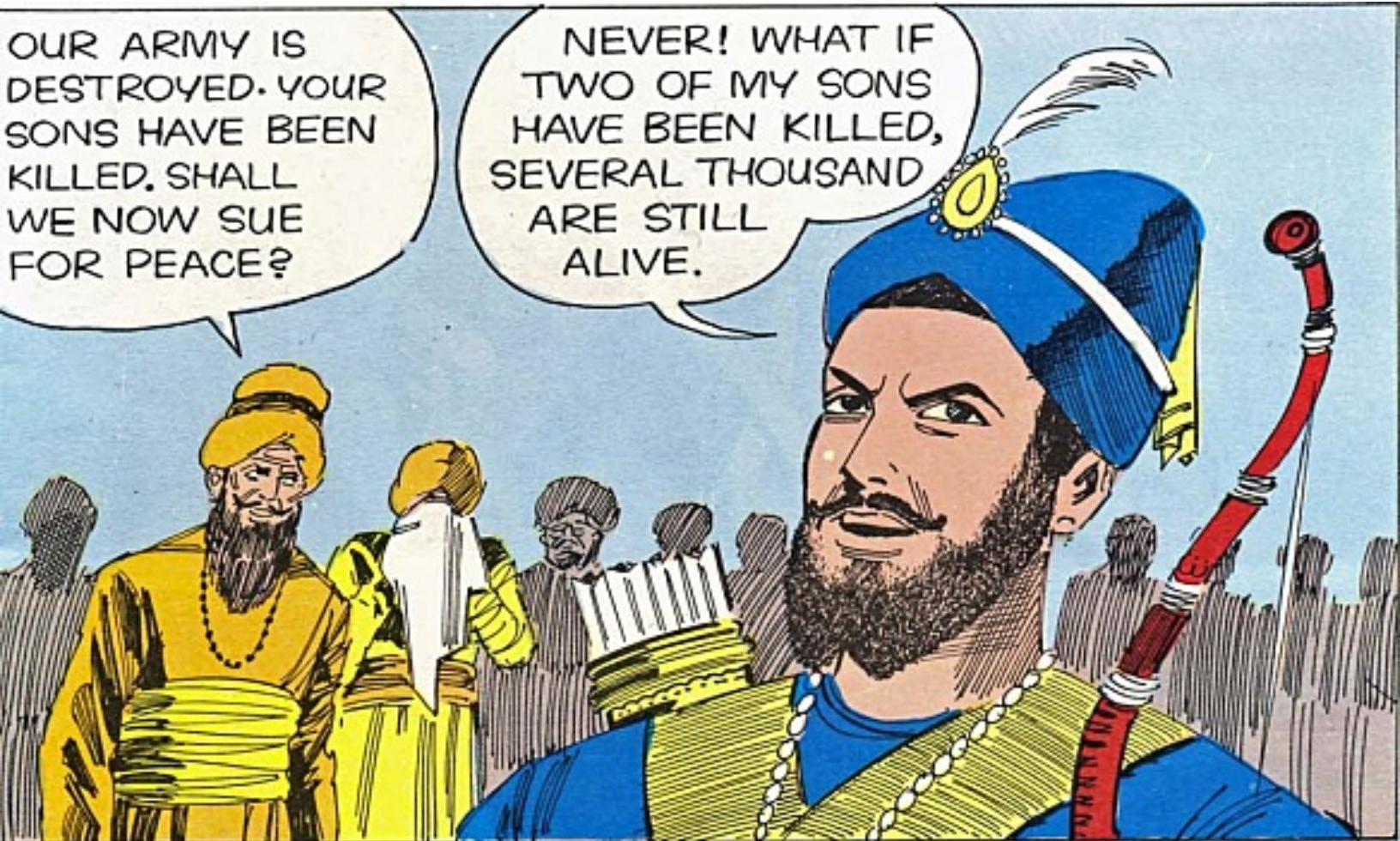






OUR ARMY IS DESTROYED. YOUR SONS HAVE BEEN KILLED. SHALL WE NOW SUE FOR PEACE?

NEVER! WHAT IF TWO OF MY SONS HAVE BEEN KILLED, SEVERAL THOUSAND ARE STILL ALIVE.



MY SON RESEMBLES THE GURU. WE WILL DRESS HIM IN THE GURU'S CLOTHES AND FOOL THE ENEMY—SON, WHAT A GREAT HONOUR!





DRESSED IN GURU GOBIND'S CLOTHES THE YOUNG SIKH...



... FACED THE ENEMY.



WE'VE KILLED THEM ALL! EVEN THE GURU OF THE SIKHS!




WHILE THE ENEMY WAS CELEBRATING THE KILL, GURU GOBIND SINGH MADE HIS ESCAPE.





A man with a beard, wearing a blue turban and a blue robe with a yellow sash, is walking through a forest. He is looking to his right. The forest has green trees and a brown path.

HE WANDERED ABOUT ALONE EVADING  
HIS PURSUERS.

The same man is lying on his side on the ground, resting. He is wearing the same blue robe and turban. The forest background is visible.

HE RESTED IN THE JUNGLE OF MACHIWARA.

Two men are standing in front of a stone structure. The man on the left is wearing a white robe and a red turban. The man on the right is wearing a yellow robe and a red turban. They are both looking towards the left. The background shows a stone wall and some trees.

WHEN HE REACHED THE TOWN,  
TWO FRIENDLY PATHANS HELPED  
HIM ESCAPE.

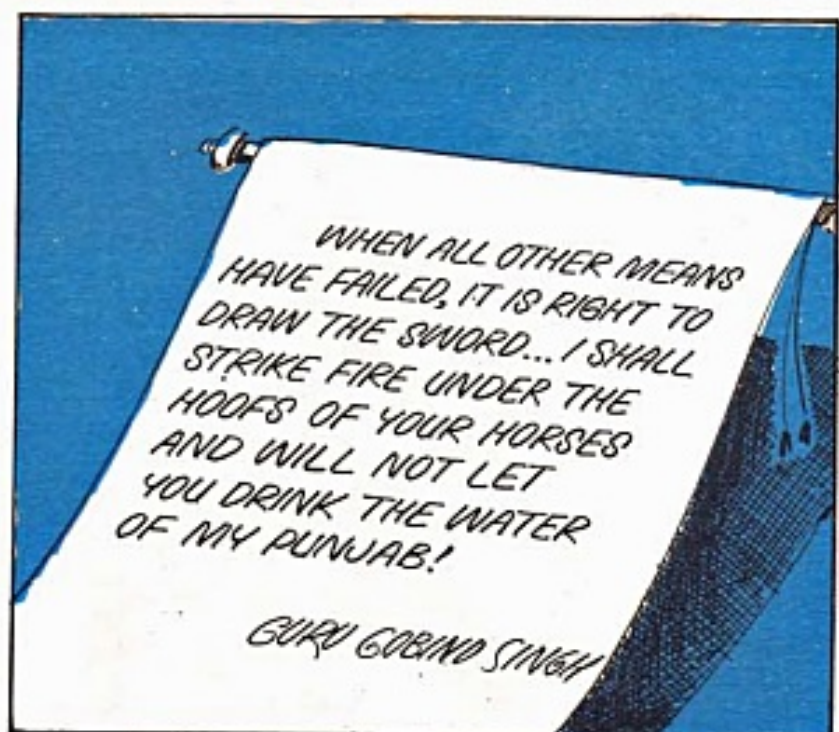




ONE DAY A SIKH CAME TO GURU GOBIND SINGH.



GURU GOBIND SINGH WROTE A LONG LETTER TO AURANGZEB HOLDING HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEEDS OF HIS OFFICIALS.





AFTER THE DEATH OF AURANGZEB HIS SUCCESSOR BAHADUR SHAH INVITED GURU GOBIND SINGH TO VISIT HIM.

WELCOME MY FRIEND! I HAVE A SMALL GIFT FOR YOU!

YOUR MAJESTY IS TOO KIND! I NEED NOTHING FOR MYSELF, ONLY FOR MY SIKHS!



SO THE DAYS PASSED PLEASANTLY AND GURU GOBIND SINGH ACCOMPANIED THE EMPEROR ON HIS TRAVELS. MEANWHILE WAZIR KHAN CONTINUED TO PERSECUTE THE SIKHS IN THE PUNJAB.





ONE DAY...



SO YOU ARE GURU  
GOBIND! WHAT HAVE  
YOU COME TO THE  
GODAVARI FOR?

TO MAKE  
YOU A  
DISCIPLE.



I AM  
YOUR BANDA,  
YOUR  
SLAVE.

NAME YOU BANDA SINGH  
BAHADUR. GO BACK TO  
THE PUNJAB AND  
AROUSE MY SIKHS  
TO PUNISH THE  
PERSECUTORS  
OF THE SIKHS.



YOUR ORDERS  
WILL BE CARRIED  
OUT, MY GURU.



MONTHS PASSED.  
ONE EVENING  
GURU GOBIND  
SINGH WAS ALONE  
IN HIS TENT WHEN  
TWO PATHANS  
SUDDENLY  
ENTERED WITH  
KNIVES IN THEIR  
HANDS.



THEY STABBED THE GURU,  
BUT HE STRUCK ONE OF HIS  
ASSAILANTS DEAD...



...THE OTHER WAS CHASED AND  
KILLED BY HIS FOLLOWERS.

THE WOUND WAS STITCHED, BUT WHILE  
GURU GOBIND SINGH WAS PRACTISING  
ARCHERY ONE DAY...



GURU GOBIND SINGH KNEW HIS END WAS NEAR.



BUT  
GURUDEV...





DO NOT MOURN MY  
DEATH! AS RAIN SUSTAINS  
THE SEED WHERE  
IT FALLS, SO SHALL  
MY WORDS REMAIN  
WITH YOU, MY  
KHALSA AND BEAR  
FRUIT!



AND DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF HIS FOLLOWERS, GURU GOBIND SINGH'S  
HEALTH GREW WORSE AND ON OCTOBER 7, 1708 HE DIED.





## Illustrated Classics From India

### The Three Gurus

Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, was born at a significant period of Indian history. On one hand, people were divided into castes, sects and factions; on the other, Muslim rulers perpetrated atrocities against Hindus and the weaker sections of society. The masses in their hardships and miseries, cried for a saviour. Nanak came as God's messenger in the common man's hour of need.

His followers, called 'Sikhs', formed a group of god-fearing men and women devoted to the service of the people. His life is an inspiring example of truth, love and humility.

At a time of great religious intolerance and persecution all over the world, Guru Tegh Bahadur carried the conviction that every individual should have the freedom to follow the faith of his or her choice. When king Aurangzeb persecuted the Hindus ruthlessly, the Guru reminded him that the Holy Quran did not sanction forcible conversion. He, along with his closest disciples, survived many cruel attacks of torture employed by the king, and did not allow their spirit to be crushed. To this day, he is remembered as 'Hind-di-chadar', protector of India's honour.

Guru Gobind Singh was the last of the ten Sikh gurus. He converted a pacifist, passive and fatalistic community of Punjabi Sikhs into a militant, aggressive and determined brotherhood of the Khalsa. It was he who gave Sikhism its five sacred symbols, including the unshorn hair and beard, and introduced the concept of a single casteless family – the Singhs.

**Editor: Anant Pai**

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